FBIS DAILY REPORT

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COSTA MENDEZ SAYS INCIDENT WITH CHILE CLOSED

PY251715 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1444 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb (NA) -- When asked whether the incident between the Argentine and Chilean patrol boats in the Beagle Channel area has been overcome, Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez said: "Yes, that incident has been resolved." However, he declined to make any further comments on the issue.

POSITIVE SIDE OF DECEIT ISLAND INCIDENT NOTED

PY252201 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 24 Feb 82 p 6

[Editorial: "The Deceit Island Incident"]

[Text] Once again the conflict in which we confront Chile over sovereignty in the extreme south of the continent was about to result in armed incidents, with completely unpredictable political and military consequences.

The unfortunate incident caused by aggression against an Argentine ship in waters whose possession -- in any case -- is being analyzed within the papal mediation process, only verifies the seriousness of the conflict, the determination of the two nations to effectively incorporate those areas into their territory and the constant risk that incidents which are by themselves unimportant may spark an outbreak of war which is something without precedence in this part of the world, even without taking into account the commitments undertaken in Montevideo, thanks to the special papal mediation.

As has occurred repeatedly, the Chilean party has arrogated to itself attributions within a jurisdiction which does not belong to it; a jurisdiction which it should consider as included in the negotiations conducted by the holy father to which Chile proclaims unrestricted support, but which, according to the two-ocean principle, undoubtedly belongs to Argentina since it lies in the Atlantic, east of Cape Horn at the end of the continent.

The affirmation of the Santiago Foreign Ministry communique that the question involves "waters which are unquestionably of Chilean sovereignty" is not in keeping with the text or spirit of preestablished agreements or with the purpose of the papal mediation. The attitude toward a ship which was unoffensively granting support, of an eminently civilian nature, to an international sports competition is still less in keeping with the peaceful spirit of the 1978 agreement.

In this sense, the statement issued by San Martin Palace yesterday was right in pointing out that "that activity is authorized by the agreements signed by the two countries" aimed at the development and success of the task undertaken within the mediation process. Therefore, as is pointed out by the official statement, "No right of either country can be curtailed by navigating ships of the other country nor can support or control operations carried out in conformity with the provisions of those agreements be curtailed."

It is appropriate to point out the firmness of the Gurruchaga's sailors who, intimidated by a more powerful ship, refused to obey the arbitrary order to withdraw in compliance with superior orders and in the certainty that they were rendering services to civilian navigation and, above all, that they had anchored in Atlantic waters and, as a consequence, Argentine waters.

Quite probably -- and let us hope this will be the case -- the Deceit Island incident will be no more than another episode of a very long and exhausting dispute which periodically provokes the tempers on both sides of the Andes.

Let us hope the peaceful spirit the two countries promised the pope they would maintain will prevail because only thus will the mediation arrive at an honorable and durable solution. Without such a solution the Argentine community, as well as the Chilean community, will be exposed to the uncertainty of new incidents like the Deceit Island incident, or maybe even more serious and painful ones.

On the occasion of this unpleasant incident, Argentina and Chile, through their foreign ministries, have reiterated their desire to reach an agreement through the mediation of his holiness. This fact should be considered the positive side of the incident. A prudent attitude, which is something the commanders of the Chilean ship did not show, is necessary for the mediation to progress and to yield results that will satisfy the two parties.

REAGAN ASSISTANCE PLAN SEEN AS GOOD APPROACH

PY260238 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 25 Feb 82 p 6

[Editorial: "The Reagan Plan for Central America"]

[Text] Finally President Reagan has unveiled his promised plan of assistance to Central America and the Caribbean. In some aspects, such as that of facilitating trade between that region and the United States, it is exceptional. Of course the special treatment that the White House proposed in this case is explicitly motivated by concern for safeguarding the primary interests of the United States in the region.

The proposed economic assistance is auspiciously underpinned by a practical philosophy regarding the means for removing the conditions for the stagnation and backwardness which are the hallmarks of the Central American situation. The mainstays of that practical philosophy are free trade and promotion of private investments while simply strengthening the existing budget in the area of direct fiscal assistance.

The reasons for the U.S. concern were straightforwardly stated by President Reagan in his references to Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

In general, therefore, a salutary sign can be noticed in the formulation of the U.S. regional policy because, through the analyses of the situation in Central America and the Caribbean, an attitude which is important for Latin America as a whole was put forward in this first pronouncement of President Reagan especially devoted to the hemispheric situation. This attitude calls for containing the Soviet-Castroite thrust -- clearly surfacing in that region -- with an appropriate consideration by the United States of all the factors involved in the political, economic and social balance of the continent.

The U.S. Congress should hopefully show a similar understanding in evaluating the White House plan because, if the congressional criterion of attaching conditions to economic assistance prevails -- as in El Salvador's case -- the paradoxical effect of inciting violence and chaos can be produced. This is to say that not only the assistance can be undermined but also the development of the processes to restore the democratic health of the Latin American nations which are precariously surviving in circumstances favoring subversion.

Although in the light of what has been said before it might be irrelevant, it is praiseworthy that President Reagan may have wanted to express the particular view of the United States toward the universalist principles expressed, without concrete applications, at the Cancun conference.

ARMY OFFICER PROMISES ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR

PY251550 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2355 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (NA) -- Gen Antonio Vaquero, chief of staff of the Argentine Army, tonight said that Argentina "understands and values the struggle of the Salvadoran Armed Forces and will provide assistance as far as feasible."

The Argentine military chief, who decorated Col Rafael Flores Lima, chief of staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, said tonight that assistance will be provided "to a friendly nation in a difficult situation but unalterably maintaining the principle of nonintervention in its internal affairs." The following is the text of Vaquero's speech.

"This ceremony has the purpose of giving a cordial welcome to our country and to these facilities -- after two postponements in 1981 -- to the chief of staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, Col Rafael Flores Lima, and his wife. I would like to express here that the strengthening and consolidation of the relations now linking our armies have great importance.

"Colonel, our nations -- following the examples of Delgado and San Martin -- struggled with firmness to achieve independence from foreign domination in the last century. We are also now struggling with great sacrifice to prevent a new type of colonialism, the ideological colonialism which uses all kinds of armed subversion such as El Salvador is currently experiencing and which we here had to fight to defeat. The so-called solidarity organizations appeared in this country as independent entities with their deceit and tricks, but let us not be naive: They serve, consciously or unconsciously, the current strategy of local and international terrorism.

"These organizations have proliferated in Argentina under the protection of freedom, the freedom they are trying to destroy.

"The Argentine Army -- which along with the Navy and the Air Force, supported by the Argentine nation, defeated terrorism -- understands and values the struggle of the Salvadoran Armed Forces and people and will provide its assistance, as much as feasible, to a friendly nation in a difficult situation but unalterably maintaining the principle of nonintervention in its internal affairs. This is so because two concepts of ways of life are at stake: a way of life we want for ourselves, our children and our children's children; on one hand, respect for the dignity of mankind -- God's creations -- and on the other, terrorism, men at the service of an atheistic, omnipotent state.

"Your visit, colonel, is an important event because it strengthens our dialogue and personal relations for the benefit of our military institutions."

ELECTION OBSERVERS TO BE SENT TO EL SALVADOR

PY251127 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1924 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Te] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (NA) -- Government House sources revealed today that Arg tina will reportedly send "observers" to El Salvador for the 28 March elections of a new constituent assembly. The sources added that the Argentine Government reportedly accepted in this manner "a formal request" from the Salvadoran Government and "a suggestion" from U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The idea of sending "observers" was discussed during a meeting held here yesterday by Col Rafael Flores Lima, chief of staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, and Lt Gen Leopoldo Galtieri, president of the nation and commander in chief of the army. The government sources added that the name of the "observers" to be designated by Argentine officials will be sent to the Salvadoran Government for their "acceptance."

They also said that the official announcement as well as the identity of the people designed as observers may be known by next week.

INTERIOR MINISTRY RELEASES MORE ON CONSPIRACY

PY260034 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 25 Feb (TELAM) -- The Bolivian Interior Ministry confirmed today that seven persons are under detention as a consequence of the actions which enabled the dismantling of a subversive conspiracy against the Bolivian Government headed by Gen Celso Torrelio Villa. The plot was reported last night by Interior Minister Col Romulo Mercado.

Colonel Mercado and his under secretary, Gerardo Torrez, gave further deatils today on the report released last night. They revealed the complete list of detainees.

According to the report, the detainees are: Juan Rodriquez Guayama, alian Commander Landivar, pointed out as chief of the group; Fernando Ordwing Rivera, alias Homero; Rene Carlos Cartagena Pardo, alias Leonardo; Juan Alexander Fernandez, alias Victor; Ronald Montenegro Rojas, alias Pedro; Feliciano Cossio Gomes, alias Isidoro; and Julio Cuenca Vaca, alias Dominguez.

The minister also stated that the detentions carried out at the beginning of this month have nothing to do with the subversive plan revealed yesterday. At that time, some factory worker leaders were detained, including Filemon Escobar.

Minister Mercado also explained that the first action carried out by the subversive group was the attack perpetrated in December 1981 against an automobile company in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1,000 km east of La Paz. On that occasion, the terrorists seized approximately $500,000, which was distributed among the members of the group, and was used to purchase weapons, vehicles, radio equipment and pamphlets.

While the Interior Ministry officials provided further details on the report, the detainees were also introduced, and Rodriguez Guayama, leader of the group, made some remarks.

Asked about the aid they were reportedly receiving from abroad, Rodriguez Guayama said: Some American and European nations look at our struggle with great interest.

Minister Mercado yesterday stated that the terrorists have connections abroad and accused the French Socialist Party. This prompted a protest from the French ambassador to Bolivia.

Rodriguez Guayama was also asked whether former President Hernan Siles Zuazo was aware of the plans. He answered that Siles could have been informed by comrades who escaped from the country.

Under Secretary Torrez finally repeated that the subversive group was connected abroad through the Socialist International, from which the group received a contribution of $60,000 from the hands of its leader Pierre Ledoine.

He also cited Nicaragua, El Salvador and especially Cuba as international contacts for the group.

Detainees Released

PY260044 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Interior Minister Romulo Mercado Garnica reported this morning that he had ordered the release of six persons detained for their involvement in political and labor activities, and that they were kept under detention as a result of the events which took place in the wake of the implementation of economic measures.

Mercado Garnica stated that three of them are from the Cochabamba district, while the remaining three are from Chuquisaca. He added that despite their involvement in conspiratorial events, they were not dedicated to them.

Colonel Mercado Garnica added that he had no other report on other events in his office. Meanwhile, he said that the investigations on the subversive activities reported yesterday continue. He added that his ministry is engaged in maintaining calm in the country so that all activities be carried out within a climate of normality.

In answer to questions by reporters on leaving the government palace, the minister said that Luis Lopez Altamirano was turned over to the court where he will face trial according to the provisions of the current laws. Lopez Altamirano was detained on 8 February 1982 carrying counterfeit identification documents, in addition to conspiratorial documents.

TORRELIO: ANTICORRUPTION CAMPAIGN WILL SUCCEED

PY252034 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] President Gen Celso Torrelio delivered a speech during the ceremony opening for the school year at the higher school of national studies. He said the armed forces government is fully convinced that it will defeat corruption and other evils which are undermining the foundations of Bolivian society.

[Begin Torrelio recording] The armed forces government, demonstrating its high sense of responsibility, recently enacted a series of economic and financial measures aimed at reordering and reviving our economy. These measures by themselves will not solve the crisis without the cooperation of all Bolivians, civilians and the military, who love their fatherland, in the tasks directed at solving first, the economic and moral crisis and then, the institutional problem. [end recording]

Finally, the president said the government is sure of the success of its struggle against corruption.

[Begin Torrelio recording] Social peace is essential. Only social peace will permit the work of all Bolivians to be fruitful, leading us down the road of socioeconomic development. The armed forces government has taken all the necessary steps to ban corruption, which is violently threatening to destroy the very foundations of our society. Results have not yet been noticed because our government administration works slowly. However, the nation can feel sure that the government will carry out its anticorruption campaign no matter what. [end recording]

EL DIARIO APPEALS FOR END TO CORRUPTION

PY251542 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Feb 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Enough, for the Sake of the Fatherland!"]

[Text] Corruption has so much taken over the administrative and political leadership of the country, namely in the area currently known as the public sector, that mass media are every day reporting on new attacks against public funds. Lots of dirty deals everywhere one looks and in the most diverse areas by officials of different ranks. It is as if the country were being shaken by a wave of irresponsibility and dishonesty, a moral crisis amounting to a truly social illness which threatens to spread even more.

What is the reason for this situation? There might be many reasons, some of them old, others linked to factors of a sociological nature like the failure of education in its broadest sense, the loosening of religious commitments or socioeconomic reasons related to the unbounded urge for acquiring wealth "any way possible," in order to meet the requirements posed by a time of tempting possibilities in a consumer society, which baits the hook with promises of well-being and prosperity which are deceptive and false in impoverished communities.

But, above all, the persuasive force of examples can be pointed to as a factor strongly influencing social behavior. However, when illegal, fraudulent and deceitful actions, which are known to everybody and which are reported by the press, are not punished with exemplary measures, no restraint is being encouraged but, on the contrary, individuals of poor moral background are encouraged to be increasingly daring in their own dirty deals.

The only effect of most of the daily public scandals is to attack the press to report them, followed by brief public indignation and then everything is cast into oblivion. How can these examples be expected to yield fruits other than corruption?

The other factor which openly and remarkably impairs moral values is the administration of justice which, if not completely absent in Bolivia, is so inactive and so deeply entangled with the jungle of legal steps and procedures, of formal requirements and subtleties -- implacably time-consuming and patience-exhausting -- that it certainly does not stand as a faithful and sound guarantee for individuals and for society. If justice is not executed to its full extent in order to enforce and to defend the law, then its negative influence disrupts social order and public morality. Much of this moral laxity and crisis the country is undergoing is the fault of the courts.

Finally, the influence of warnings and verbal threats which are not supported by acts but which merely translate into intentions or words nobody pays attention to also plays its part.

Such a deep moral crisis as the country is undergoing will not be overcome with good intentions, just like a grave ailment will not be cured by threatening words from a doctor, it is necessary to make use of the resources of the nation, whose institutions and laws should wake up and get moving. It should be clearly understood that if both individual and collective morality are not restored, the nation will continue bearing the burden of corruption. Enough! Let an end be put to this scourge! It is the country's future which is at sake!

FRENCH ENVOY ON VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PY251215 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0707 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 25 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- Early this morning Raymond Cesaire, French ambassador to La Paz, reported here on "serious violations of human rights" in Bolivia.

He made these charges after the Bolivian Government had announced the discovery of a subversive plan of the extreme left linked to the Socialist International and the governing French Socialist Party.

The Bolivian Government had announced that Pierre Ledoine, leader of the French Socialist Party, had donated $60,000 to Juan Rodriguez, head of the armed sector of the Movement for National Liberation who was organizing a rural guerrilla group in Santa Cruz Department.

The French ambassador stated that "the charges made by the Interior Ministry may divert the citizenry's attention, as it has done in the past, but it will not contribute to solving the serious Bolivian problems."

He added: "In addition to many of my colleagues, I regret the arrest and mistreatment carried out during the past few days, which in addition to representing a violation of human rights, only contribute to hindering the reconciliation of the Bolivians."

NEWSPAPER BLAMES U.S. FOR COCAINE MARKET

PY251400 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Feb 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Cocaine and Its Consumer Market"]

[Text] The country's image abroad has been unquestionably marred and its name is now associated with cocaine. To deny this truth, regardless of how painful it may be, is to lose the perception of a bad situation. Those who are responsible for this situation will certainly be judged in due time, and the stigma of history will be categorical. Nevertheless, we must begin outlining some responsibilities, putting things in their proper place and to showing the real angles of something we are insultingly accused of when there are other factors, other culprits, both in governments and in societies. We will see this as we made a quick analysis based on trustworthy reports provided by communications media of international prestige.

A TIME article reveals important data on the spread of cocaine in the United States. It reports, for instance, that this drug produces the largest profits in that country, where the sales on the streets in 1980 amounted to $30 billion. It added that in 1981 45 tons of this drug was shipped to the United States, and that if the cocaine traffickers were united, they could make up an enterprise which could easily become one of the largest in the country, to the point of reaching seventh place.

These very simple data reveal the extent of the cocaine business. They clearly show the amount of money being handled; and it is easy to deduce the origin of these financial resources for such a business. There is something irrefutable in this regard: the money spent on cocaine comes from the United States, one of the most powerful nations in the world.

The same TIME article reveals that in the United States cocaine is found on the streets and in the working centers as well. The traffic of this drug has involved all kinds of unscrupulous persons who confess that they do it to help themselves and to obtain an additional income to what they normally have. The consumers are everywhere, and it is said that it is easy to see how executives, middle class people and workers do it carelessly. But the most striking revelation is how the U.S. courts are reluctant to act severely against the cocaine holders and traffickers.

The revelation of this picture forces us to think and ask whether the world action against cocaine today is either well or badly managed. We do not know -- because there is much to be studied yet -- if it is just to only attack the evil in the centers of production, or on the contrary, if it is better to cut off first the valves which encourage cocaine production. In other words, must drastic measures against cocaine production be imposed on Bolovia alone, or must they also be imposed on the United States where there ought to be more severe laws against those who trade in it, who provide the economic resources, and ultimately, against the consumers market where, according to the data provided by TIME, there are more than 10 million citizens addicted to this drug?

The issue is controversial in itself. There will be more speculation in this regard. Nevertheless, the stigma of cocaine cannot be thrown onto our country alone. Although it is true that there would not exist consumers without the existence of the drug, it is also true that the production is fostered by someone with great financial resources, and especially because there is a lack of legal means in the main consumption center to avoid it; and this is what has caused us the greatest problem, but there are other angles which should be taken into account.

ECONOMIC MEASURES, GOVERNMENT CREDIBILITY VIEWED

PY251707 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Feb 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Economic Measures and the Credibility Gap of the Government"]

[Text] The enactment of economic measures is surely the first step to be taken to improve our economy. It is expected that those measures will be based on studies and planning in keeping with reality, discarding the palliatives that aggravated the crisis in the past instead of solving it. For the sake of the government's own prestige, security and tranquillity, those measures will have to be followed in subsequent days by other measures which should have been taken long ago to save the credibility of the government.

We are referring to the fact that it is necessary to put into practice, in its broadest sense, what the president has expressed since he took over: To act in keeping with the law and to abide by and to enforce the Constitution; in other words, to restore the rights abolished in the wake of the coup of 17 July 1980 which, from the socioeconomic, political and moral viewpoints has so badly damaged our country and its institutions, such as the armed forces, whose representatives are currently heading the government, which acts in the name of that institution.

In general, the opinion of the citizenry is that the government should more closely observe the laws protecting human rights; that all types of pressures should be halted; that rights should be gradually restored to their full extent; that there should be possibilities for a prompt and effective restoration of a democratic atmosphere, and, finally, that the country should be led along the path of reality, progress and harmony among all Bolivians. But citizens are also aware of a grave error which impairs the prestige, the stability and the coherence of the government; no legal measures have been taken against those who have misused power, made dirty deals or committed other offenses to the detriment of the country; against those who have impaired the prestige and the dignity of the nation with the sole purpose of satisfying their individual or collective ambitions and lust; against those who have made drug trafficking their bread and butter. In a word, the people expect these measures to be taken in the same way and as severely as other mistakes, offenses or faults -- such as noncompliance with curfew requirements -- committed by any citizen, are judged or punished.

The people demand this action. They want all actions by the government to adhere to moral principles. This can only be achieved through the fulfillment of promises. Recently, a high military officer said in Cochabamba that "those who have improperly performed their public duties must be prosecuted.: It was announced some months ago that some officers would be discharged on grounds that they have lapsed into "grave faults;" that those who are responsible for the La Gaiba affair will also be prosecuted; that classified decrees and documents not qualified to be labeled as secret would be published. Many promises have been made and almost nothing has been accomplished, above all as far as improving the morality of the administration and other institutions is concerned.

The above economic measures must be supported by strong moral principles. Only in this way will the government improve its credibility and will it succeed in uniting the Bolivian family. If this is not the case, this will mean -- in plain words -- returning to disunity and to struggle among sectors which should always be united. The economic measures, as well as any other measure adopted to improve our impoverished economy and to save our institutions will succeed if the people realize that their rulers are willing to support such measures with attitudes which improve the image of the country, which remove all tarnish from the institutions and which reveal that the sacrifice to be imposed one way or the other to the Bolivian people will be shared by everybody. Nobody should avoid or try to avoid the consequences of the application of remedial measures; in other words, there should not be either privileged individuals or sectors. The sacrifice that the nation demands should be shared by everybody, with responsibility and without exceptions.

FOREIGN MINISTER GUERREIRO LAUDS REAGAN PLAN

PY251943 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 25 Feb (TELAM) -- Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro has praised U.S. President Ronald Reagan's economic aid program for Central American and Caribbean countries. In a statement published today by local newspapers, Saraiva Guerreiro noted that Reagan's economic aid program will help to ease the tension in the area since he noted that the present political problems in Central America are caused by socioeconomic factors. Regarding rumors about an alleged U.S. military intervention in El Salvador, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said he never thought that possibility was feasible and it now is even more remote with the new U.S. economic aid program. Regarding his recent visit to Venezuela, where he held meetings with President Luis Herrera Campins and with Foreign Minister Zembrano Velasco, he said that during his trip they analyzed international issues, particularly those pertaining to the Central American region, but he refused to give any further details.

Government Studying Plan

PY260046 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The economic cooperation plan for Central America unveiled by the United States is being analyzed by the Brazilian Government. According to Itamaraty spokesman Bernardo Pericas, the U.S. plan has aspects that must be studied carefully because it can affect the interests of other countries, including Brazil, in the area of trade. Although the plan is still being studied, Pericas said that the Reagan plan was well received inasmuch as it emphasizes economic and social aspects as the root of all problems in Central America.

FOREIGN MINISTER GUERREIRO TO VISIT PRC, JAPAN

PY240137 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Feb 82 p 5

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO) -- The forthcoming visit of Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro to the PRC from 23 to 27 March and to Japan from 28 March to 1 April will be a political visit aimed at strengthening relations with these countries and opening new opportunities for trade and economic cooperation. Itamaraty points out that Brazilian-PRC relations, begun in 1974, are mature enough for a new phase with Brazilian participation in hydroelectric projects and "off-shore" (continental shelf) oil exploration in the PRC. A Foreign Ministry source said: "In view of the Chinese policy of support for all Third World causes, China is interested in promoting business with Brazil, the only developing country outside Asia which is going to strengthen relations with China." The commercial exchange, after an active phase followed by the establishment of relations and exchange of ambassadors, is moving along. Therefore, Itamaraty points out that Brazil is interested in buying coal, pharmaceutical products and more oil and is interested in selling manufactured products like jeans, ready-made clothes and foods, like sugar, soy beans, etc. There are opportunities for good business transactions but there is a need to make a dynamic effort. Itamaraty says that Guerreiro's visit to Beijing is aimed at creating closer political relations in order to close these business deals.

After his stay in Beijing, Guerreiro will visit Tokyo reciprocating the official visits made by former Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda, the last one in August of last year. Guerreiro is going to review the large projects of cooperation and explore the possibilities of a major Japanese participation in Carajas during a meeting he will hold with the new foreign minister, Yoshio Sakarauchi. Until now Japan has expressed interest in iron mining but the Brazilian Government wants to expand the cooperation of Japanese companies in projects involving nonferrous metals, agriculture, railroads, and population centers. Brazilian-Japanese commercial exchange is developing well and Brazil wants to maintain the equilibrium of the years 1980 and 1981 when it was able to overcome the deficits of 1977 through 1979 by obtaining an increase of more than 30 percent in the annual growth of Brazilian exports. In 1981 the overall exchange came close to $2.5 billion and Itamaraty believes that it will go over $3 billion in 1982.

ROJAS SAYS INCIDENT WITH ARGENTINA NOT CLOSED

PY260215 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames has stated that Chile does not consider the serious incident perpetrated by Argentina in Chilean territorial waters in the southern zone closed. The foreign minister added that the Argentine answer will be studied by Foreign Ministry officials. Answering remarks made by Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez that the incident which took place on Friday was resolved, Rojas Galdames stated: [Begin Rojas Galdames recording] This event must be studied thoroughly, and we are doing so. We will see what happens later.

[Question] What has Chile done about it?

[Answer] We have presented a note of protest, we have made a statement, and this is how things are now. We have received an answer to the note of protest.

[Question] Will this affect the process of mediation?

[Answer] No. This is an incident within [word indistinct] and obviously this incident will be resolved or will be considered resolved in the future. [end recording]

Talking with reporters, he indicated that despite the serious incident, the development of the mediation process will not be affected. The Chilean Foreign Ministry is studying the future development of the mediation process.

Argentine Note Being Analyzed

PY251807 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Relay from Chilean Foreign Ministry building by journalist (Maruja Porti)]

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister Rene Rojas Galdames a few minutes ago stated that the future of the [Beagle Channel] mediation process continues to be analyzed. He added that there has been no (?misunderstanding) and that Chile will continue with the same faith in the mediation and great optimism since we have to achieve a peaceful solution to the southern conflict. The foreign minister then stated that the Argentine answer to the official note regarding [words indistinct] the serious incidents which the neighboring country caused in Chilean territory last Friday is being analyzed.

Government Studying Incident

PY251728 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2126 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- Foreign Ministry sources stated today that Chile is thoroughly analyzing the intensification of what it believes to be acts in violation of its maritime sovereignty by Argentina. The latest incident took place on Friday and was the cause of mutual charges by the two countries, which maintain a century-old border conflict over the Beagle Channel and neighboring islands. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry stated that that ministry is awaiting the official Argentine statement regarding the incident which took place when the Chilean torpedo boat Quidor tried to get the Argentine Navy cargo ship [as received] Gurruchaga, which had anchored at Deceit Island, near Cape Horn, to withdraw.

Yesterday Chile issued a harsh note of protest and charged that Argentine fighter planes flew over Chilean ships in an attempt at provocation. Today the press highlighted the incident, which was officially termed "grave" by the Chilean Government. Today the daily LA SEGUNDA stated that "Argentina carries out an average of over eight violations per day against Chile." Quoting an "unofficial Chilean source" it stated that during the month of January "257 violations and acts of provocation in Chilean waters, air space or land" were registered. The two countries have submitted their border conflict to Pope John Paul II's mediation after being on the brink of an armed conflict in 1979. The pope made a peace proposal in December 1979, but Argentina requested some clarifications of this proposal and allegedly never answered completely the pope's offer.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL JOVINO NOVOA INTERVIEWED

PY221609 Santiago Chile EL MERCURIO in Spanish 31 Jan 82 p D-3

[Undated Raquel Correa interview with Jovino Novoa, under secretary general of government, in his office at the Diego Portales Building in Santiago, Chile]

[Text] Open and friendly, as an under secretary of government should be, Jovino Novoa is ready to discuss any topic. "I will answer any question you ask me," is his announcement at the beginning of the interview, which lasted for 2 hours in the peace and quiet of the 14th floor of the Diego Portales Building. Although the current atmosphere is rife with rumors and he is about to become a father for the seventh time, he did not try to escape from his difficult role as the regime's spokesman. A lawyer by profession and a member of the union movement that was born in the Catholic University, he never seems to lose his calm. He likes to explain his ideas in detail, and he is fully identified with the new form of institutionalism in Chile. He is absolutely sure that nothing will block the government's path. He believes that the path that has been chosen is the best one for the country and he has no doubt about it.

He does not despair because of complaints. "The people," he says, "make demands when their own interests are affected."

[Question] And what does it mean when in a country everything seems to be affected?

[Answer] That the government has concerned itself with satisfying the overall interest and not the particular interests of each sector. It must be determined when the people are unhappy whether they are looking after their own interests or the overall interest.

[Question] Is not the overall interest the sum of private interests?

[Answer] No. Private interests are always in conflict with the overall interest. The sum of private interests leads to chaos...and, [EL MERCURIO interjection] he adds in a tone of voice of a "student who has received A's in every subject." [answer continues] The government would not have the political support and adhesion that it has if it were true that every sector that defends its own interests was against it.

[Question] Some time ago you defined the government as "an emergency regime." Do you still consider it as such?

[Answer] The military regime is an emergency regime. This is written into the 1980 Constitution, when a normal government and a special regime for a period of 8 years -- called a transitional period -- were established. This is a constitutional government...

[Question] An emergency constitutional government?

[Answer] It is a constitutional government, but it is not the government that the Constitution recognizes as the permanent one for our country. The country needs, for a period that has already been stipulated, emergency measures and this makes this regime an emergency regime.

[EL MERCURIO interjection] Although he does not try to avoid talking about this week's topic, the death of former President Frei and his controversial funeral, the redoubled effort of trying to say the right thing can be observed.

[Question] In your opinion, was the government strengthened or harmed by its attitude regarding Frei's funeral?

[Answer] When someone dies I do not like to speak in terms of winning or losing...but I really believe that the government came out strengthened, because it acted as the majority of the country wanted it to act. It acknowledged Eduardo Frei's role as a former president and as such the appropriate honors were rendered.

[Question] Why did the government insist on attending the funeral when it was well known that the Frei family was against this?

[Answer] In effect, the government had difficulty in communicating with the family and the other people who were in charge of the funeral, but the government, in the understanding that the feeling of this country is that of honoring its former presidents above and beyond ideologies, had to carry out this obligation. The government also believed that this difficulty would definitely be overcome.

[Question] The Christian Democratic International stated that the Chilean Government tried to take advantage of the situation through its intention to honor Frei...

[Answer] I absolutely disagree with that opinion. The government maintained an open attitude from the beginning. The government was not at fault for the lack of communication, it has always faced public opinion, stating what it was going to do and why. No Chilean has any doubt about this. We acted in the usual Chilean way.

[Question] Many Chileans, including government supporters, believe that the exiled Christian Democrats Andres Zaldivar, Jaime Castillo, Renan Fuentealba and Claudio Huespe should have been allowed to return for former President Frei's funeral. What is your opinion?

[Answer] The government believed that nothing had changed concerning the situation of those persons and it said so at the opportune time. The fact that the only thing that Frei supporters and the foreign delegations criticized was that these persons were not allowed to enter the country demonstrates that the government's attitude as related to the death of former President Frei was impeccable and that it was the appropriate thing to do. The problem of the exiles had been resolved beforehand and the government believed that there had been no change in the circumstances and therefore there was no need for a change in the situation of those persons. And this was reported at an opportune time.

[Question] Don't you think the government's prestige would have been enhanced by a gesture of good will allowing the four Chileans to enter the country for a few hours? Don't you think it would have been taken as a gesture of generosity seeking the reconciliation and pacification of attitudes?

[Answer] The government has showed its willingness to live in harmony on many occasions.

[Question] Weren't there some people within the government who thought it was better to let them enter the country?

[Answer] The government believes it is doing everything it has to do for the restoration of institutions and for the sake of coexistence. The government takes those measures precisely to ensure the successful outcome of this endeavor; and in its opinion, asking for the lifting of the measures in order to pave the road for reconciliation is an absurdity...measures such as banishment are not taken because one likes them or in order to solve personal problems, but because the government feels that those people have destroyed the harmony needed to overcome this critical stage.

[Question] However, ordinary people both supporters and opponents of the government, have agreed that a mistake was made, that this refusal has spoiled the gesture of attending the funerals....

[Answer] It is hard for ordinary people to see things from the government's viewpoint. One, as an individual, may feel like doing many things; for example one can take some money from one's own pocket and give it to the poor, but if someone tries to get money from the treasury to give to the poor then that person is taken to jail.

[Question] Don't you think -- as some persons have said -- that allowing those persons to enter the country for a few hours would not have hurt the government, but instead, it would have been to its advantage both here and abroad?

[Answer] I believe the government did what it had to do, what the people expected it to do.

[Question] Are you referring to both attending the funerals and preventing the exiles from entering the country?

[Answer] Exactly. Some people may find this contradictory but there were previous circumstances that fully justify the government's attendance, although many people may have disapproved of attending the funeral of someone who tenaciously opposed the government. But it was the death of a former president. His oppositional political attitude is something different from the fact that in our country he played a role that nobody can ignore. This is a reality and the government acted in keeping with it. The other reality is that the struggle for the full enforcement of norms -- and the daily steps that are taken in order to ensure the tranquillity and peaceful coexistence the country supports -- faces situations requiring measures that are...let us say...hard or unpleasant. It would be ideal to enjoy peace and tranquillity without having to face these problems, without persons being compelled to live outside the country, without terrorists. But we live in the real world.

[Question] And was their presence, for a few hours, going to hurt the country or the government?

[Answer] They were not going to do any harm, but the measure had already been taken and it has consequences. This is one of them.

[Question] What is your interpretation of the attempt by these four persons to get permission to enter the country?

[Answer] If we think positively, it was an emotional reaction. If we think negatively, they were trying to foment trouble.... I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of these people, but I think they should have realized that since a measure had already been taken in their case, their attitude was bound to create difficulties, not inside the country but perhaps from the viewpoint of our international image.

[Question] And why didn't the government take advantage of the opportunity to improve its image and also indulge in a humanitarian gesture?

[Answer] The government cannot depend on images, it has to act in keeping with what it considers to be most appropriate.

[EL MERCURIO] And he adds:

[Answer continues] The people say these persons do not kill anybody. And they think that terrorists are spontaneously generated and they ask why banish that person if he is not a terrorist.... The truth is that when there is a terrorist action we see only the top of a pyramid whose lower layers house a number of conditions which have permitted such an action to take place. In this specific case we are not charging that these four persons are terrorists. But terrorists are not born like mushrooms; they are the result of a series of favorable situations. Questioning the legality of the regime is, for many people, nothing more than giving an opinion; for others, it is the justification for their terrorist actions.

[Question] Do you think the Christian Democratic Party used the death of former President Frei to its political advantage?

[Answer] I think so. And regrettably, they used it to gain international political advantages -- which is even worse -- sacrificing many national feelings that should have been respected.

[Question] In your opinion, what is the political meaning of the people's reaction during Frei's funeral?

[Answer] I don't think it has any political meaning.

[Question] In your opinion, after 8 years of military government and political recess, youths, workers and people from several sectors pouring into the streets to pay tribute to a figure of such political significance has no political meaning?

[Answer] I don't think it has any political meaning. Paying tribute to their leaders is an inborn feeling of the Chilean people. I think that in Chile no one will be fooled by someone trying to take advantage of a demonstration on the death of a person. I honestly believe that the funeral reflected the genuine feelings of our people and this reality could not be distorted by some isolated demonstrations.

[Question] Do you regard the demonstrations staged at the door of the cathedral against General Pinochet and other government officials as "isolated demonstrations"?

[Answer] It was a very small and perfectly organized group which placed itself behind a line of persons, most of them women, who respectfully attended the entire ceremony. They tried to disrupt the ceremony but they did not succeed.

[Question] What sector do you think the demonstrators belonged to?

[Answer] I have the impression that they are leftists, the same ones who turned the meeting presided over by Eduardo Frei at the Caupolican [theater] -- on the occasion of the constitutional plebiscite -- into a Popular Unity Party demonstration.

[Question] Do you still believe that "today we are doing fine and tomorrow we'll be doing even better"?

[Answer] Of course. Naturally. But this does not mean that we are not aware of the difficulties the country is going through. I think we are in the best possible condition to face the present situation.

[Question] Despite our living under the gravest economic crisis in the latest years?

[Answer] I do not agree that it is the gravest one. The 1975 crisis was of course more serious: our GNP feel by 12 to 14 percent, while in 1981 our growth fell by 5 percent. We are going through the most difficult period of the last few months. But we are in no way facing the critical situation that we are said to be going through. There has been considerable exaggeration.

[Question] Do you think the crisis is being overemphasized in order to gain political or economic advantage?

[Answer] Yes, both political and economic advantage. By overemphasizing the crisis the government could be compelled to take some economic measures for the benefit of some sectors but this would hurt the rest of the population.

And I am pretty sure there are political interests behind this overemphasis of the present economic situation. The opposition has made many attempts to destabilize the government. But it has failed. There is a general agreement that this government is doing things the right way and that its institutionalization and modernization program should be supported. The situation is quite persistent and the world has come to admit -- in the long run -- that the path chosen by Chile enjoys the approval of the country and that it has yielded good results. Since the opposition failed, it is trying to weaken the internal structure of the government, trying to make it move away from this successful course. They want the government to change its policy in order to fail.

[Question] And don't you see any loss of support by the regime, especially in the business sector?

[Answer] It is not strange for those persons affected by this situation to try to overcome the crisis at a minimum cost. Right now they are complaining in order to safeguard their own interests. The situation will be completely different when the time comes for them to decide which party to support, since then factors other than the interests of businessmen will come into play. The very businessman who is today complaining because he is facing the problem of high interest rates, a havy debt and adverse prices would not agree to changing either the government or its economic policy.

[Question] If the option were "running the risk of going bankrupt or of having your industry taken away from you," they will undoubtedly prefer the first option; but in economics and in politics there can be other options. Don't you think so?

[Answer] Businessmen know that in spite of all the problems we have, the option we have chosen is the most suitable for the country.

[Question] Milton Friedman believes that the "free market policy will not last if the military government is not replaced by a civilian government which will promote political freedom." He contends that "otherwide, sooner of later the economic freedom will succumb due to the armed forces' authoritarian rule." What do you think of Friedman's opinion?

[Answer] What counts in politics is not Friedman's opinion or mine, but the people's opinion. The problem Friedman raises is already envisaged in the constitution, which establishes a political system which, in my opinion, is the most appropriate one in terms of our idiosyncrasy and our reality and it is largely in keeping with our tradition. Moreover, we have already found the way to fully enforce that constitution. In this regard I don't see any risks or reasons which may indicate otherwise. Friedman believes that economic freedom will succumb under a permanent military regime, but this is not the case with Chile.

[EL MERCURIO] After the interview had finished, Novoa -- who has a gifted memory -- remembered that he had not answered a question fully. He returned to the question and said: [Answer] As for the attendance of Christian Democratic party youths at Mr Eduardo Frei's funeral... I was not surprised by the appearance of a group of youths wearing blue shirts and carrying banners. Anything can happen in this country. Just as these youths wore blue shirts, there had been times when youths also wore black shirts. I think the Chilean young generation has to face a major challenge: that of building a society devoid of the tensions and extremisms that have plagued our society for the past 30 or 40 years. To achieve this it will be necessary to defeat two major adverse situation: extreme poverty, which disrupts any normal coexistence, and any man loathes seeing human beings living like animals; and elimination of some dogmatisms which have characterized our coexistence and which have hampered national unity such as last century's clericalism -- of which I see new outbreaks now -- the Marxist doctrines, and even some outbursts of fanatism by alleged government supporters, all of which have been clearly rejected.

[Question] Some people believe, however, that it is precisely now that a concentration of wealth is taking place and ideological polarization is being stimulated...

[Answer] Those are assertions made by the opposition. I won't say if wealth has been concentrated or not; I don't mind one or the other. The problem lies in determining whether the poor people today have more than before or less than before. What is being sought here is a fight against poverty, not wealth. No one in full possession of his mental capacity can deny that the problems brought about by extreme poverty have been largely ameliorated. And this is still going on, since more money is increasingly allocated for social expenditures.

As for the second point, we have resolutely and courageously said that democracy is a system which precludes other systems. We don't hesitate to say that a free democratic regime precludes totalitarianism.

[Question] When it is claimed that positions are being carried to extreme, it is not meant that totalitarianism is being precluded but rather that the country's centrist political positions are being eliminated.

[Answer] I would say that exactly the contrary is true. A majority sector which is now being built and strengthened in the country does have smoother channels of participation.

COPPER WORKERS CONFEDERATION GREETS WFTU CONGRESS

PY251420 Santiago Chile EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Feb 82 p C 3

[Text] The text of a telegram sent by the Copper Workers Confederation on Wednesday 10 February to the Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions -- with a Marxist leaning -- was disclosed yesterday. The telegram addressed to "Messrs World Federation of Trade Unions; Havana, Cuba" reads: "On behalf of the copper workers, we wish success in this congress, from which unity of the world's working class should stem." It is signed by Roberto Carvajal, secretary of the confederation and Emilio Torres, its president.

Mine Workers Reject Telegram

PY251425 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] In an energetic public statement, the El Teniente mine workers' directive board rejects the telegram of congratulations to the World Federation of Trade Unions, an organization which is of clearly Marxist tendencies. It must be recalled that the president and secretary of the Copper Workers Confederation recently sent a message to the WFTU, which is holding a special congress in Havana, Cuba. It must also be pointed out that this decision was made without consulting other copper union leaders. The WFTU is lead by the pro-Moscow communist parties.

In its statement, El Teniente Mine points out that the telegram does not reflect the feeling of the other members of the confederation; and it charges the leaders of violating the confederation's statutes, which stipulate that this sort of decision should be discussed during a special meeting held for this purpose.

EXPORTERS OPPOSE REAGAN'S ECONOMIC PLAN

PA251921 Paris AFP in Spanish 2144 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Bogota, 23 Feb (AFP) -- The Colombian National Exporters Association (ANALDEX) today voiced opposition to the U.S. economic plan for Central America and the Caribbean for 1982.

Alfonso Rojas, president of ANALDEX, which represents Colombian exporters, said that "the plan is contrary to the country's economic interests and also discriminatory." Rojas told AFP that Colombia, as part of the Caribbean, must be included in the plan, which is aimed at reactivating the Central American and the Caribbean economy and thus preventing the region from further destroying itself "by way of violence." The exporters' leaders said that in the event that no agreement is reached to include Colombia in the plan, this country would have to resort to the most-favored-nation clause [of the GATT].

Regarding this, he explained that in this case, Colombia would have to be given some prerogatives so that its trade with the United States would not deteriorate.

The Reagan administration plan includes the elimination of tariffs on many Central American and Caribbean exports to the United States.

Colombia basically exports flowers, sugar, liquor, tobacco, and leather but in view of the proposed plan, it is feared that these products might not reach the U.S. market.

He added that all the Colombian exporting sectors, as well as the productive sectors, should follow the example of the National Association of Financial Institutions and alert the government to dangerous effects that this plan could have in the country's economy.

RESPONSE TO AMNESTY OFFER 'SLOW BUT STEADY'

PA250327 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Bogota -- The nation's ranking military commands, led by Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, guaranteed peace for the upcoming elections and stressed their hope that those elements who are up in arms in the areas of Caqueta and Putumayo will continue to accept the pardon granted by the government as, in fact, they have done so far. Yesterday, according to information revealed by the defense minister, six additional members of the guerrilla 19 April Movement, M-19, surrendered to the authorities in Florencia. Meanwhile, those who are being held at La Picota sent a letter to President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala expressing their refusal to heed the government's new call for peace.

Governors, ranking administrators and military officers met in Cali, Barranquilla, Medellin and Bucaramanga to discuss measures to guarantee the continuity of the current electoral process. Minister Camacho Leyva said the meetings yielded excellent results. Commenting on the government's amnesty decree, the defense minister said that the response is slow but steady.

ELECTION MEASURE BRINGS PROBLEMS TO GOVERNMENT

PA [illegible]258 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2043 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Bogota, 20 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's government today faces an unexpected and serious administrative crisis following a government measure taken to guarantee the government's impartiality in the 14 March congressional elections and the 31 May presidential elections.

The Interior Ministry [Government Ministry] issued instructions according to which, the government officials who have family ties with candidates to public office, according to different levels of relationship, must resign within 48-hours.

This decision has caused a true "bureaucratic shake-up," because more than 6,000 officials at different levels will have to resign from their government positions.

For the 14 March elections there are more than 60,000 candidates for 9,000 legislative offices in the Senate, the Chamber of Representatives, departmental assemblies and municipal and intendancy councils.

Political critics today said that Turbay Ayala will find himself in a spot if the law is strictly enforced because his son, Julio Turbay Quintero, heads the list of candidates for councilman in a municipality of Cundinamarca Department.

The order from the Interior Ministry states that [words indistinct] by relationship includes first degree of consanguinity (parents and children) [words indistinct] (brothers) and first degree of affinity (fathers-in-law and sons-in-law, or children of spouses in previous marriages).

The order does clarify that the decision will be valid only when the official involved, due to his degrees of relationship, performs duties within the electoral municipal or departmental area as the case may be, where his relative is running for a legislative position.

Health Minister Alfonso Jaramillo Salazar said that he will resign only if ordered to do so by the president. His wife Hilda Martinez and his son Alfonso are running for seats in the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives respectively.

Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastman said that the matter will be clarified to avoid misunderstandings.

Rule Clarified

PA231944 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Bogota -- The government has explained that the disqualification of public officials whose relatives are running for public office does not apply to ministers and governors, thus staving off a political crisis of unforeseeable proportions in the regions. In a new announcement to regional officials, Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastman indicated that the regulation will only apply to secretaries and mayors as well as to managers of decentralized agencies with nationwide, departmental and municipal jurisdiction. Nevertheless, the measures have already triggered many resignations in regions where officials have blood relatives or relatives by marriage running for offices in the 14 March election.

Minister Eastman explained the new decision by noting that the announcement is addressed exclusively to governors, intendants, commissioners and the previously mentioned managers in order for them to enforce it in regard to secretaries, majors and regional managers. The minister reiterated that the disqualification applies only to the previously mentioned officials in their respective electoral areas. If any of them has a relative running for public offices in a jurisdiction other than his own the rule will not apply.

The government minister has told the press repeatedly that he thinks this disqualification should be made part of the constitution in the future as a means of reasserting the determination to grant full guarantees to parties and political groups that participate in elections.

REAGAN'S PLAN TERMED SIMILAR TO NEW DEAL

PY260208 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 2255 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Station editorial]

[Text] President Reagan has given his announced speech at the OAS, a message in which he expounded on notable topics, notable due to the person who expounded them; an aid plan for the countries of the Caribbean Basin. Although the plan is directed at the Caribbean Basin countries, which is today an area in conflict and of high importance for the peace of the world, and it will help them to get out of their economic and social dolorums -- seedbeds for systematic discord and violence -- it is of interst to all Hispanic-American countries. Anything that happens in one Hispanic-American country is always of interest to the others.

The truth is, once distances -- which are irrevelent today -- and the peculiarities imposed by history and geography in one and all have been overcome, to some degree all Hispanic-American countries are suffering from the same, or similar problems: difficulties in their economic development, lack of justice in the terms of trade, poverty and the dissatisfaction of the great neglected majority. It is, therefore, evident that the problems, the projected solutions and their eventual success in some of these countries will cause repercussions in the others.

In this commentary it is not our purpose to analyze and judge President Reagan's plan for the Caribbean Basin countries, its objectivity, its possibilities or prospects for success in the face of problems that have always existed and which for a long time now have been pointed out both within the spheres of Hispanic-America and the United States. In the end it will be the immediate future that will indicate whether or not the action is coming too late, whether the proposals are the appropriate ones and whether the amount of aid is enough to overcome the serious and urgent needs of the economic and social problems. On this basis, the guerrilla insurgency has been able to subject several countries to Soviet domination. For those countries under the attack of terrorism, the organized guerrillas, violence and indiscriminate extermination are the prior steps to the appearance of political regimes that are at the service of Soviet colonialism.

For the time being we want to highlight from President Reagan's message, which in our opinion represents the great advance achieved at the highest level of U.S. policy, an indispensible condition for a more realistic foreign policy for Hispanic-American countries. It represents the recognition -- we could even say contrite recognition, something like a mea culpa of the U.S. chief of staff -- of the strange and pathetic impermeability of the high political circles that make the decisions in the United States in their attempts to understand the true causes of the problems that today have overflowed in many, not to say all, Hispanic-American countries. We believe that this is the first time that a U.S. president has fully recognized before such an important forum that the current and explosive problems in the Hispanic-American area are similar to processes that the United States itself suffered in the past and which caused terrible consequences for its development as a free and sovereign nation.

This is the only interpretation we can arrive at when he states, for example, the following: "We have not always lived up to these ideals. All of us at one time or another in our history have been politcally weak, economically backward, socially unjust or unable to solve our problems through peaceful means. My own country," he said, "too, has suffered internal strife including a tragic civil war. We have known economic misery, and once tolerated racial and social injustice. And, yes, at times we have behaved arrogantly and impatiently toward our neighbors."

Although it was delayed, and may even be too late, at long last we have a starting point. To some extent it reminds us, encouragingly and with hope, of that other historical event when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in charge and the declaration of the New Deal [given in English], which was so very important at that time, called for a better and more understanding coexistence between the Hispanic-American countries and the great northern nation.

COLUMNIST SCORES FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR WHITE

FY240243 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 17 Feb 82 p 7

["Commentary" by Bacon Duarte Prado: "Back At It Again"]

[Text] An old acquaintance of ours has reappeared in the news. The fact that the news refers to Robert White, the same man who was here for some time as ambassador of the United States, is sufficient to clearly demonstrate White's antipathy toward the national government and the Colorado Party, as well as his notorious preference for the legally-unrecognized opposition acting in our midst. When he was ambassador that preference went so far that it made people wonder whether Mr White was accredited to the national government or to the leaders of that opposition. Nobody will reproach him for his political preference or his inclination toward a given sector of public opinion, no matter how small that sector is, because he is entitled to those preferences as he is to everything, provided he keeps it to himself. What cannot be sustained or defended is the fact that he handled his official functions with the bias of that sympathy and, we would even say, with the solidarity which rightly or wrongly he showed to that strident and audacious minority group. He set himself up as some sort of meddlesome guardian of that little group and as a stubborn and omnipressent procurator who intervened in the internal affairs of the country, oblivious to the limitations inherent in his functions and position. He tried to be a permanent arbiter in whatever questions came up between the national authorities and a given sector of the opposition. Since we are on this subject, we must also say that Mr White made no distinction in his treatment of the legally-recognized opposition and governing party officials with some occasional and irrelevant differences.

The result of that unusual conduct was the noticeable deterioration of relations between the great country to the north and our country. This was because a man embracing a cause contrary to the well-established interest of the government before which he was accredited had to be a bad intermediary of those relations. In passing we will say that great damage is done to the cause of Western and democratic solidarity by diplomats who take sides in the internal affairs of states. Such an attitude goes beyond their specific diplomatic functions which should be limited to informing their governments with honesty and objectivity about situations in the country in which they are posted, to complying with instruction of their governments, to representing their governments with the necessary decorum and to maintaining the necessary equidistance -- as a token of independence, justice and equanimity -- from political or any other kind of groups. Transferred to El Salvador, this Mr White continued there his imprudent behavior and he had to leave the post.

Since he learned nothing from the manner in which he acted in Paraguay, now Mr White is back at it again. He has appeared before a court in Brooklyn where a suspicious hearing is being conducted against a former officer of the Paraguayan police. We say the hearing is suspicious because we have no knowledge of the elastic principle of jurisdiction and competence under which the Brooklyn court is acting in a suit for damages allegedly stemming from incidents which took place in our country and which are being clarified in conformance with our laws. Mr White has again bared his claws to hurt our country and the regime in government by attesting that this is "a society seized by rear, where torture is a basic means of repression which has been institutionalized." Mr White has quite a loose imagination and is quite rash in his assertions. As an accuser he is under obligation to back his assertions if he expects to be taken seriously by just and honest people, but it will be useless to expect that from him because he esposes an internationally widespread policy of making false charges -- as the ones we mentioned above -- without submitting any evidence.

HUBER MATTOS VISITS, MEETS WITH BELAUNDE

FY232220 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2030 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Lima, 19 Feb (TELAM) -- Commander Huber Mattos, one of the main leaders of the Cuban revolution, asserted here today that if the coward of the island -- dictator Fidel Castro -- dies before his time, Cuba will erupt and become democratic, because this is what the people are waiting for. During a meeting which he held with Cuban citizens living in exile in Peru, Mattos -- who was a political prisoner for 20 years in Havana under Fidel Castro's regime -- asked his 2 million fellow Cuban countrymen living in exile in various countries of the world to contribute, according to their abilities, to Cuba's democratization.

Mattos asserted that the arrangements for the great return to Cuba are underway. Therefore, (until Castro dies) we should do everything possible in a peaceful way so that democracy may be achieved in Cuba. In this process he recommended that Cubans not despise the members of the Cuban Armed Forces who, in their majority, come from the Cuban people and can be convinced of Fidel's tyranny because they are aware of the citizenry's sufferings.

Yesterday Mattos met with former Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez and current President Fernando Belaunde Terry. During his meeting with Belaunde he spoke in favor of the well being of his fellow countrymen living in exile in Peru.

MINERS TAKE OVER HUANZALA MINE, SEIZE HOSTAGES

FY231720 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 13 Feb 82 p 6

[By correspondent in Huaraz, Francisco Jaramillo]

[Text] Huaraz -- demanding an answer to their list of requests, more than 900 miners took over the premises of the Huanzala mine and took the main officials as hostages. This incident took place at 2000 on Tuesday but the police only learned about it today.

Preliminary investigations point out that the miners started a strike on 2 February to demand better wages and housing facilities. Under these circumstances they adopted a coercive measure and took over the mine premises taking Superintendent Juan Turin and Chief of Industrial Relations Pedro de la Torre hostages.

It has been learned that the strikers have started direct negotiations with police and labor authorities. The release of the officials is expected at any time. In the meantime, a climate of anguish and concern prevails in Huanzala, located in Huanuco and neighboring on Bolognesi Province.

ZIMMERMANN OBTAINS PROVISIONAL RELEASE

PY181536 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1915 GMT 13 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Lima, 13 Feb (TELAM) -- Journalist Augusto Zimmermann today obtained his provisional release in the libel case brought against him by Deputy Dagoberto Laynez, of the Popular Action Party. Zimmermann is involved in two other cases that are pending against him. He is accused of libeling the president of the Senate, Javier Alva Orlandini, who is also a member of the Popular Action Party.

FRENCH, SPANISH SOCIALISTS BEGIN FACT-FINDING TOUR

PA242323 Paris AFP in Spanish 1416 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Caracas, 24 Feb (AFP) -- The first secretaries of the French Socialist Party (PSF) and the Spanish Workers Socialist Party (PSOE), Lionel Jospin and Felipe Gonzalez, arrived in Caracas this morning as part of a Socialist International fact-finding tour.

This fact-finding tour was established by Socialist International President Willy Brandt after the postponement of the general meeting that was scheduled to be held in Caracas on 24-25 February.

The meeting was postponed at the request of the Venezuelan social democratic party, Democratic Action (AD), which did not accept the presence of a Sandinist delegation at the meeting. AD stated that according to Socialist International statutes, this meeting could only be attended by leaders of the member-parties and not by "observers."

Upon making its position public, AD added that it had the support of several social democratic parties of the Latin American continent, thus emphasizing the difference in viewpoints between the European and Latin American parties regarding Nicaragua.

The leaders of the PSF and PSOE will meet today with several AD leaders A press conference was called for later this afternoon.

PSOE LEADER COMMENTS ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA252323 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1732 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Caracas, 24 Feb (EFE) -- The concern over the events "not only in Nicaragua, but also in other Central American countries, even if in different directions, as for example in El Salvador, is definitely legitimate." This statement was made by Felipe Gonzalez, secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE), on his arrival in Caracas from Madrid.

Gonzalez, vice president of the Socialist International, referred to the position of the Venezuelan social democrats of "Democratic Action" (AD), that the Sandinist regime has procedures and manifestations "contrary to the principle of democratic pluralism."

AD's concern caused the recent suspension of the scheduled socialist summit in Caracas and the Venezuelan request for the Socialist International to hold an open debate on the political evolution of Nicaragua.

Gonzalez will remain in Caracas today, and will travel to Panama tomorrow to attend a meeting of socialist leaders of the area, who will try to "delve deeply into our strategy for Central America and the Caribbean."

Referring to the suspension of the Caracas meeting, the Spanish socialist leader felt it was the result of misunderstandings; that today's meetings here and those to be held in Panama starting tomorrow, "will afford the opportunity to collect the required information to find a common platform acceptable to the Europeans, and in that I include myself," he pointed out.

Gonzalez noted the "tremendous tension" affecting Central America and the encouraging initiatives such as that of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo for a peace mediation.

Gonzalez was confident that after the meetings in Caracas and Panama, the convoking of the Socialist International "Presidium" in Bonn within a month "will permit our opinions on the basic issues of the conflict to be voiced."

Going back to the legitimate concern over Nicaragua, Gonzalez noted that "It should not be inferred, as already stated by the Venezuelan colleagues themselves, that there is an attitude of no dialogue or of contributing to the blockade which could in turn radicalize the process."

"What should be done, instead, is to talk and discuss with the Nicaraguans, to see if it is possible to agree on a desirable program" he added, and reiterated: "I believe president Lopez Portillo has done that very well, and the very statements of Nicaraguan leaders concerning the search for an authentic nonalignment are comforting as long as the borders' security is guaranteed."

Concerning El Salvador, the "Socialist International" vice president, after noting that, personally, he has "considerable information, although not excessive," on the situation, he expressed the belief that the solution is not just elections, "but true elections.

On this matter, Gonzalez said he had talked sincerely with all sectors involved "inside El Salvador and outside, including the U.S. secretary of state."

For the elections to be "the solution," it is first necessary to assure a number of guarantees for participation of all sectors and that they be held within a climate of peace, he said.

"Is there anyone who can imagine a Salvadoran leftist leader arriving at a voting booth in San Salvador, calmly depositing his ballot and returning home?" Gonzalez asked.

Besides, he does not believe the current Salvadoran confrontation can be solved militarily through the total defeat of one side over the other, "without foreign intervention, which would be disastrous."

In view of this, he thinks it is necessary for the two sides to sit "at a negotiating table to achieve peace and a future authentic electoral process."

Nevertheless, Gonzalez did not discount possible benefits from the scheduled elections which, even lacking the legitimacy to give a constituent nature to the resulting assembly, could serve as the first step toward the reorganization of the negotiation platform of the society that will participate in those elections."

Gonzalez voiced his concern, on the other hand, over "the negative aspect that could result from disqualifying those who fail to participate in the elections and then repressing even more harshly those who are disqualified."

To the Spanish socialist leader, "The Christian Democrats and the other Salvadoran moderate leftist political forces are pinned like a sandwich between the armed forces and the guerrillas, and the real dialogue is taking place between the military forces and the guerrillas."

PEMEX DISCOVERS LARGE NEW ONSHORE OILFIELD

FL251532 Bridgetown CANA in English 1245 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 25 Feb (CANA-REUTER) -- The Mexican state oil company, PEMEX, has discovered a big new onshore oilfield containing light crude of exceptional quality, a PEMEX spokesman said today. He said the new find was near other fields already in production in the oil-rich southern state of Chiapas which provides about half of Mexico's 2.75 million barrels per day (BPD) output. PEMEX did not give an estimate of the size of the new field. Mexico, the world's fourth biggest oil producer has 72 billion barrels of proven hydrocarbon reserves.

Oil for Spain

FL182140 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2125 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Pedro Perez-Llorca today asserted that his country will continue to buy 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Mexico. In an interview at Mexico City International Airport just before departing for Spain, the foreign minister said his visit to Mexico had been positive in all senses.

Perez-Llorca stated that relations between Spain and Mexico will continue to be strong in the future, as he referred to the meeting he held with PRI presidential candidate Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado. The Spanish foreign minister was seen off at the air terminal by Mexico's Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alfonso de Rosenzweig and Spanish Ambassador Eduardo Pena Abizanda.

FRANCE SUPPORTS PROPOSALS ON CENTRAL AMERICA

FL242315 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2112 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The French Embassy today issued a communique from the French Council of Ministers which expresses solidarity with the proposals made by President Lopez Portillo in Nicaragua last Sunday for the purpose of ending tensions in Central America. The embassy says the words of the Mexican president correspond to the principles that guide French policy in the area.

Mexico and France recently signed a joint communique recognizing the revolutionary movement in El Salvador as a political force, an attitude that caused a strong reaction from the United States and some South American countries.

DE LA MADRID BACKS PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

FL231552 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1334 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 23 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The PRI cnadidate for president of the republic, Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, expressed absolute confidence in President Jose Lopez Portillo's handling of economic policy. De la Madrid made this statement last night at a public meeting on planning a "productive structure," sponsored by Mexico City's Center for Political, Economic and Social Studies.

BRIEFS

DENGUE UNDER CONTROL -- Mexico City, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Dengue, which had threatened to reach epidemic proportions in Mexico, has been completely controlled, said Eduardo Zorrilla, director of the Secretariat of Health and Assistance's Tropical Diseases Institute. He said that the viral disease had caused only 36 registered cases in Mexico since September. He stressed that the population can relax because the infectious and contagious disease has been controlled at its roots and, he indicated, the few scattered cases reported had presented no serious threat. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2315 GMT 24 Feb 82 FL]

ROYO TERMS REAGAN SPEECH TO OAS 'POSITIVE'

PA251539 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1513 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Panama City, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- President Aristides Royo returned to Panama today after a 10-day vacation in Italy and Spain. President Royo visited several tourist spots. During his stay in Spain, he was received by King Juan Carlos and by Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo.

The Panamanian president was on his way back to Panama while U.S. President Reagan was delivering his speech on aid to Central America and the Caribbean. As soon as he debarked from the plane, the Panamanian president asked for newspapers to read Reagan's speech. Commenting on it, he said it contains very positive elements because it indicates perfect awareness that violence is very often generated by the poverty that exists in some Central American countries.

The president also described as positive the promotion of investment from the United States and other Western nations in Central America and the Caribbean by means of vital incentives, as well as the possible expansion of foreign trade by the modification of tariffs to allow Central American and Caribbean products to enter the United States duty free. Royo praised the fact that the Reagan plan does not seek to combat communism directly as a primary objective, but rather to combat it by preventing the source of hunger in the countries of the region. The Panamanian president also noted as a positive feature the fact that Reagan did not mention direct intervention in Central America. He said the positive aspects of the U.S. President's speech coincide with the peace proposals made by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo to pacify Central America through talks and negotiations, as Panama has been suggesting for the past few years.

Interview Remarks

PA260014 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Luz Maria Noli interview with President Royo at airport on his arrival from Spain 25 February -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] One of the considerations of the chiefs of states who have voiced their opinions or reaction to President Reagan's speech is that this plan must still be approved by Congress and that until it is approved the program is not a reality and might not become one. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Well, it is true that in the United States there are constitutional procedures that must be met. However, I honestly feel that President Reagan, who took a long time to express an opinion on economic matters, would not have done so unless he had some consensus or knows that a majority will favor his plan.

I would like to say one thing, Luz, on the problem of -- on the aspects of Reagan's speech, mainly the problem of intervention. I am very pleased to hear that President Reagan discarded intervention yesterday. He specifically denied it. He said his principles do not include that of intervention. He said legality and the promotion of peace are among his principles. Over the past few months one of the great concerns of many Latin American chiefs of state as well as of heads of state of other continents has been the possibility of U.S. intervention, linking it, in one way or another, with possible Soviet intervention in European affairs. Therefore this part of his speech was very positive. His denial of possible intervention was positive. It must be a source of satisfaction for all countries.

Furthermore, I believe all these positive aspects of his speech must be used throughly by all governments, particularly all those governments that are experiencing internal problems, such as those in Central America. Therefore Reagan's statement, together with the statement by President Jose Lopez Portillo -- which also includes peace proposals, some of which are specific proposals referring to negotiated and political solutions to the conflicts -- jointly with Reagan's statement, which also contains specific aspects of an economic and political nature such as that on nonintervention, must be used to motivate immediate talks among the sectors in conflict and the organizations trying to support the restoration of peace in Central America and definitely for the talks of the various chiefs of state who have been very interested in the solution of the problems of the region.

[Question] Regarding domestic matters, the vice president noted that aside from the positive nature of Reagan's speech, he would like a further explanation of what this would mean for countries like Panama.

[Answer] I agree with Vice President de la Espriella. It is logical that now we want to see this Reagan plan, which was a general statement, become a more specific statement. In the speech I addressed to the foreign ministers of the Latin American Economic System in December 1981 I noted that every time the U.S. ambassador asked to see us at the Presidential Palace, it was to give us bad news about tariffs or negative measures. Therefore I believe Reagan's statement opens a door so that this bad news will become good news.

[Question] On the occasion of your trip abroad there were mixed reactions in Panama. Some did not agree and others, like Corregimiento Representative Robledo Landero, said the president needs freedom to do as he pleases. How do you feel after this week of vacation?

[Answer] I want to thank Robledo Landero for his statement, but it is not true that the president can do as he pleases. I have to do what the constitution and the law allow. The constitution is quite clear when it authorizes every Panamanian to take a vacation. I think it is a right that was obtained through many struggles, beginning with the Industrial Revolution. For this reason, I took a week off. Furthermore, I want to announce that every year, as long as I am president, I will take a week off early in the year and another week in the middle of the year. I feel a president needs to meditate, rest, recuperate his energy and be calm in order to continue with the daily hustle and bustle. Besides -- and I don't think this has to do much with the subject -- the week I took off was not strictly a vacation; I took advantage of it to make some contacts and hold some talks.

[Question] Could you expand a bit more on the contacts you had in Spain?

[Answer] We had dinner with King Juan Carlos, the Spanish prime minister and some senior government officials. We discussed the Central American situation as well as increased Spanish participation and rapprochement concerning this problem. We also talked about relations in Central America, and definitely those of Panama with Spain.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT DUARTE COMMENTS ON REAGAN'S OAS SPEECH

PA260219 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Speech by Jose Napoleon Duarte, president of the revolutionary junta of the Government of El Salvador, on 24 February in San Salvador -- recorded]

[Text] Salvadorans, I am here today, as I always am when there are matters of importance to the country, to comment on the speech delivered today by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. In first place, I wish to inform you that I received a letter this morning from President Reagan in which he expresses his support and satisfaction for the creation of the Central American Democratic Community, recently formed by El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

The president of the United States told me that he has given special attention to the initiative and invitation that the Central American Democratic Community made to developed countries to come in aid of countries with less resources, and that in reply to that invitation he would submit to the people of the United States an economic aid plan for Central American and Caribbean countries. This unprecedented plan in the history of inter-American relations was indeed presented by President Reagan to the OAS.

I agree with the viewpoints submitted by the U.S. President and also with the ideals of democracy, of self-determination of peoples, of economic development and collective security. We also share his views regarding social, political and economic problems faced by the Central American and Caribbean countries. We also agree on his analysis of the Salvadoran problem which to a large extent conforms with our own understandings. We appreciate the support promised to the Central American Democratic Community, because we believe this institution represents an instrument of peace and a means for struggling for the full exercise of democracy and for the socioeconomic development of our countries.

I reiterate that the economic aid program presented by President Reagan has no precedent in the history of Central America, because the United States, setting aside all paternalism and by assuming its historic responsibility as a developed country, is answering the call to come in aid of the less developed countries. President Reagan's plan undoubtedly will strengthen the economy of our countries and will promote authentic social development within a framework of justice and democracy.

The opportunities of investment in the industrial field, with the commercial, financial and tariffs measures of the plan announced by President Reagan, undoubtedly represent a powerful tool for El Salvador's economic reactivation. It is also an excellent occasion for Salvadoran business sectors to take advantage of a plan which permits the export of our products not traditionally exported, to reach U.S. markets.

With this program's support, Salvadoran can sell their products in U.S. markets. This opens an optimistic horizon full of opportunities, so that we can work to start manufacturing more and increase our production with the assurance that we have market for our products.

President Reagan's attitude and policy established in that economic aid program for our countries ensures the success of our political program, and also of our struggle to provide economic and social benefits for our people. It also ensures the success of the Central American Democratic Community, which will gain strength and power that no other regional organization has ever had. With this support the Central American Democratic Community will increase its potential for growth and development benefitting peace and democracy in the area.

In today's speech, President Reagan outlined the true dimension of the American man and of the struggle against the economic and social challenges in these hard times we are facing.

Above all, however, President Reagan made a genuine defense of freedom in his speech -- the most worthy asset of mankind for which we are struggling and will always struggle, to avert new types of colonialism which would represent new forms of slavery.

In this moment of great expectations, Salvadorans maintain their peaceful vocation and are determined to defend their freedom to the last consequences to prevent, as President Reagan said very well, having new Cubas emerge from the ruins of present conflicts.

Salvadorans, this is the great decision we will make on 28 March, when at the polls we will say, no to violence; no to terrorism; no to totalitarianism; and yes to freedom, to democracy and to preace. Salvadorans, good night, thank you.

FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISES REAGAN SPEECH TO OAS

PA251420 Paris AFP in Spanish 0343 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Salvador Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena described President Ronald Reagan's message on his announced aid plan for the Caribbean as "a brilliant exposition" and expressed satisfaction with it. Chavez Mena told AFP that Reagan's idea "will contribute to consolidating a democratic process in the Central American and Caribbean region and particularly to consolidating the Salvadoran political process in a definite manner so that this Central American country can take the road to democracy."

The foreign minister noted that the cooperation in the economic field is very new "because it eliminates the idea of paternalism and charts a course of cooperation and historical responsibility for the U.S. nation." Chavez Mena said that he was sure that Reagan's project "will entail extraordinary political and economic benefits" for El Salvador. In addition, he said that he was very pleased with Reagan's reference to the Central American Democratic Community [CDC] which Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica have formed.

Asked about the $300 million which Reagan announced to help the Caribbean and Central America, the foreign minister said that "undoubtedly this figure does not meet all needs but it augments the bilateral assistance that has been already negotiated and established with the U.S. Government." He stressed that what was offered today is additional aid, adding that as a whole, the measures announced have "every possibility of fulfilling the requirements for the solidity and stability of the Salvadoran economy. Without a doubt, all these actions will lend great soundness to our country's economic process," he emphasized.

The Salvadoran foreign minister said that he hopes -- and issued a call in this regard -- that the U.S. Congress will approve the Reagan proposal. He also said that he trusts that a program of "such magnitude, which is aimed at consolidating freedom, justice and economic development within the framework of respect for the people's self-determination, will be favorably received by the U.S. Congress."

"From that point of view, the U.S. interests are the same as those of the peoples of the great Caribbean and Central American area," the minister said. "That is," he added, "the interests to have democracy, development and justice."

"I can't see why the U.S. Congress wouldn't view a program of such magnitude with enthusiasm. This is an unprecedented U.S. program for the Central American region," Chavez Mena noted. He said that he recently met with his Costa Rican and Honduran counterparts in Tegucigalpa, to study mechanisms for multilateral negotiation in order to make the U.S. economic aid, as well as any aid which can be obtained from other developed countries, a reality.

At the Tegucigalpa meeting we also analyzed, he added, an institutional mechanism for the CDC and agreed to hold several working meetings in March. These meetings could even lead to the negotiation of mechanisms for the program "which was presented by President Reagan in such extraordinary way today."

DEFENSE MINISTER DECRIES FRENCH AID TO NICARAGUA

PA251913 Paris AFP in Spanish 1217 GMT 24 Feb 82

[By special AFP correspondent Jose Maria Riba]

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Salvadoran Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia has deplored France's "negative attitude, because it is indirectly helping subversives in El Salvador and strengthening the attitude of the Marxist bloc" in Central America.

In an exclusive statement to AFP, General Garcia -- who is regarded by observers as the strongman within the Salvadoran junta -- criticized the French Government for providing "exorbitant assistance through armament" to Nicaragua and asked: "why?" That country [Nicaragua] "has become the springboard of every weapon, all the assistance and every mercenary arriving here to fight against democracy," the general said.

The Salvadoran cabinet minister stressed his "respect" and admiration" for France and deplored "the negative attitude of the French Government, which is unaware of what is happening in El Salvador. "I am clearly stating that France is not [as received] meddling at this moment in El Salvador's internal affairs," Garcia said, stressing that "it already did so through the French-Mexican declaration, which was such a complete failure."

He declined comment on the proposal Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo put forth Sunday to ease tensions in the Caribbean. "This is not the first time the Mexican Government has put forth this idea," Garcia said.

He stressed that El Salvador's response was a political proposal "opposing any possible attempt at intervention by the Mexican Government." The fact that the United States, Nicaragua or any other countries are willing to consider the Mexican plan "in no way changes our position," the minister said, declining further comment on the matter.

Regarding the possibility that the elections for a constituent assembly on 28 March pave the way to a civilian junta, General Garcia said: "Yes, to a provisional president until a constitutional government is elected." According to the minister, the Salvadoran Army will respect the results of the elections, "whatever they are. We are bent on occupying the position that befits us, away from politics and the government," the defense minister said.

"The archbishop of San Salvador is not El Salvador's Catholic Church, and everybody has his opinion according to the way he thinks or serves," Garcia said, referring to Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, who advocates holding a dialogue with the opposition.

Regarding military matters, General Garcia confirmed that the army and the guerrillas are currently engaged in heavy fighting in the area of Suchitoto, 50 km north of the capital. "Many subversives have been found in this area. They have put up resistance, but the armed forces continue advancing," he said.

He refused to assess the results of the clashes, but admitted that both sides have sustained an undetermined number of casualties in the last few hours. "We have enough men to fight," Garcia said, adding that he opposes the presence of "any foreign troops" in El Salvador.

ELECTION COMMISSION HEAD ON POLL PROSPECTS

PM240937 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 18 Feb 82 p 4

[Johnny Flodman Dispatch: "An Election Without Electoral Registers"]

[Text] San Salvador -- The television shows a family awakened in the middle of the night by an explosion. The baby shrieks, its parents try to comfort it. Then the advertising element comes in with a picture showing someone putting a voting paper into a ballot box. The slogan is "Your vote -- the solution."

The authorities hope and believe that the 28 March election will be the solution to El Salvador's difficult problems. No more attacks. No more explosions. The aim of the election is to appoint a parliament to work out a constitution, and a presidential election is also projected for next year.

"I have high hopes that we will be able to carry out the election despite the fighting with the leftwing guerrillas and thus take the first step toward a peaceful solution to the conflict," Dr Jorge Bustamante said in an interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET. Dr Bustamante is chairman of the Special Election Commission which is preparing the election and which will make sure that those in power or others cannot falsify the election result. El Salvador has a long history of election fraud and electoral manipulation.

"I hope that then all parties will meet to discuss the country's future. As far as I am concerned, they can be Christian Democrats, socialists, communists, or fascists, as long as they sit down and negotiate," he said.

But there are many problems, admitted the 59-year-old doctor and gynecologist who has taken on the difficult task of bringing the election to a successful conclusion. "We do not know how many people there are in the country who are entitled to vote. Perhaps a little over a million. The population has been said to total 4.5 million. But since the mid-seventies, half a million have left the country and thousands have been killed. In addition, around 250,000 women in rural areas have no identity cards. And without such a card voting is impossible."

[Question] And how many can one then expect to vote?

"Five hundred thousand would be a good result; then I would be happy. If there are 600,000, I will drink for a whole week," Dr Bustamante answered laughing.

The El Salvador election leader is well known for his special sense of humor and his frank statements, and he has provided journalists here with many good phrases. Bustamante also gives every visitor to his well-guarded offices a demonstration of how voting is to be carried out. He shows his identity card, goes to a ballot box in one corner of the room, draws a cross in one of the boxes on the voting slip and then puts it into the ballot box. The voting slip shows both party names and symbols. This is necessary in a country where almost half the population is illiterate.

[Question] There are no electoral rolls in this election. How will it be possible to prevent people from voting twice?

"Well, we will mark one finger of each voter with a special ink which is guaranteed to remain for at least 40 hours. So anyone trying to come and vote for a second time will have to chop off his finger," Bustamante said.

[Question] The authorities have promised repeatedly that this election will be carefully controlled and really will be free. How will this be done?

[Answer] Voting slips will be counted on the spot and then the ballot boxes will be sealed so that no recount can take place. Party representatives and neutral observers will follow the whole process. Several countries have been invited to send observers.

The ballot boxes are then taken to provincial capitals under army protection. Also, the army will not be allowed to vote. This is so that the army will not be accused of having falsified the results or of having helped to do so, as it has in previous elections.

[Question] What will happen if you discover any election fraud?

"If those responsible are ministers, army officers or civil servants I have the right to dismiss them," Bustamante said brusquely and showed me El Salvador's electoral legislation. If they are private individuals who have succeeded in buying votes or manipulating the election in other ways, there will be fines or even harsher punishments."

[Question] Is there any hope that leftwing supporters will go to the polls? They are said to be afraid to take part. Afraid of the rightwing's "death patrols."

[Answer] I still hope that the leftwing will take part. I have been in contact with some of its leaders but have had no reply. The situation is probably that the leftwing parties do not want a general election but are waiting to decide how they are to act in the future.

Much depends, therefore, on the constitution which the new members of parliament will work on. I hope to God that they will have enough in their heads to find a consititution for the future -- a constitution which everyone will be able to accept.

I at any rate will do all I can to protect the voters, no matter which party they belong to. But you must understand that I cannot give everyone a tank.

Dr Bustamante is one of those people who have little time for the political parties in El Salvador. He says so openly at the same time as he stresses that he has their confidence.

"It is a scandal that politics should be in the hands of the politicians," he declared; and he imparted another piece of wisdom: "They do not know what ordinary people want and what they need. They only think about their own power."

"Let young people and those who know what everyday life means have greater influence," in his advice. In other words, a kind of grassroots democracy.

So far seven parties have registered for this election, from the PAR (Party for Renewal) on the one side to the extreme right ARENA on the other. The two main rivals are the Christian Democrats, the PDC, President Duarte's party; and the National Reconciliation Party, the PCN, the official party under several previous military regimes.

The Christian Democrats have the advantage of a reasonable party machine and also economic and political ties with fraternal parties in South America and Europe.

But the PCN is also strong and, according to informed observers, could very well meet with success and, together with other rightwing parties, win power.

This is a scenario Dr Bustamante does not want to think about. Nor does the Reagan administration which has declared its readiness to do everything to support the ruling regime in El Salvador so that it can effectively combat the guerrilla movement.

NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY POLITICAL PLATFORM

Part Four

PA242258 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Feb 82 p 33

[Paid advertisement by the Executive Council of the National Conciliation Party, PCN, entitled "Political Platform of the National Conciliation Party Part IV" -- all numbers as published]

[Text] IV 4 -- The Specific Reforms

IV. 4.1 Title I. The State and Its Form of Government

The National Conciliation Party, PCN, plans to firmly uphold the principles established under this title since they constitute the basic structure of our republican system. It will struggle within the constituent assembly to avoid alteration of these principles by misrepresentations or distortions based on communitarian or socialistic theories.

The PCN deputies will call for retention of the organizational structure of the three government branches as established in the 1962 political constitution and will oppose the creation of new organizations or institutions that tend to annul or diminish the current state functions and attributes and the other functions proposed in this platform.

However, the PCN expresses the belief that there should be reinforcement in the text of some of the provisions to assure that there will be no misunderstanding or false interpretation of its true spirit. Therefore, under this title, the following amendments are proposed:

Article 1. The following should be added at the end: "The official who, in exercising his authority, should endanger national sovereignty will be removed from his post."

Article 2. The text should be amended as follows: "It is the state's main duty to effectively ensure, using every means at its disposal, that all inhabitants of the republic enjoy freedom, health, culture, work, economic welfare and social justice."

Article 4. The government is made up of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. They will act independently within their faculties, which are inalienable and irreducible, and will cooperate among themselves in carrying out public affairs.

Article 7. The following should be added at the end: "...within the 6 months following the date on which the separation occurred."

Regarding Article 8, the PCN plans to retain unchanged the principle that the national territory cannot be reduced. The stand taken on this matter is based on the fact that all points of view agree that it is not advantageous for a small and densely populated country to sacrifice a portion of its territory, because each manzana of land is extraordinarily valuable.

IV. 4.2 Title III. The Citizens and the Electoral Body

Regarding the contents of this title, the PCN advocates substantial amendments with the following main goals:

Establishment of an election system for deputies based on electoral districts established by dividing each department of the republic into zones according to its number of electors. This will provide a fair system with real and direct representation, the representative being truly responsible to those represented. The dominance of the ruling party and of the government itself would be limited this way.

Simultaneous elections for president, vice president, deputies and municipal councils. Simultaneous elections is an effective method against the government and the official party manager to influence the elections for deputies and municipal councils. The political parties will decide on the means of replacing their legislative and municipal representatives.

Establishment of a 4-year term of office for president, deputies and members of the municipal councils. In the first case, the reduction is a reflection of a tendency that is becoming widespread in many constitutions because it is felt that 4 years is enough time for a president to efficiently enact his plans. As to the term of office for deputies and members of the municipal councils, experience has demonstrated that the 2-year period established by the 1962 constitution does not allow these officials to do a good job and demonstrated that the elections every 2 years greatly affect the economic stability of our country.

Regarding the composition and functions of the Central Electoral Council, the PCN will propose to the constituent assembly reforms that will raise the category of that organization, which will be responsible for ensuring honest elections and will grant representation to the political parties within that organization, so it will be more than mere overseer of the electoral process. In this regard, the PCN proposes that the council be composed of three members, with the first two chosen by the two political parties that won the majority of votes in the immediately preceding election. These two members will in turn choose a third member that will be the president of the Electoral Council. The interparty political forum demonstrated that the political institutions have matured enough and that, instead of their traditional antagonism, they now seek rational avenues of integration. On this basis, one can be fully confident that national interests will take precedence over party interests in the actions of that top electoral organization. To achieve these objectives, legal principles will be adopted within the new constitution to forestall a lack of unity within the Electoral Council because of circumstances that could arise when it is established. These principles will be developed in the law on the subject. We introduce the principle that the state should finance the political parties according to the proportion of the electorate that they represent.

The criteria expressed in Article 23 of the 1962 constitution that states that all Salvadorans over 18 years old, without distinction by sex, are citizens is maintained; but we add that the fact of acquiring citizenship also confers on the new citizens their legal age in civil matters. Although this innovation is included in the civil code, the PCN maintains that it should be established at the constitutional level as a recognition of the maturity and degree of culture and responsibility achieved by the youths in our country.

Punishment of those bad citizens who promote the wrongful continuation of the presidential term, adding that those who under any circumstances promote the retention of the president -- or of the person of persons who exercise the functions attributed by the constitution to the presidency -- will lose their rights and citizens.

Promotion of the citizens' interest in the elections, for which there should be in Article 24, an addition stating that the government will use all the means at its disposal to make it possible for citizens to fulfill this duty.

[Dated] San Salvador, 23 February 1982 [Signed] PCN Executive Council (to be continued)

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT LUCAS GARCIA WELCOMES PRESS OBSERVERS

PA251246 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0130 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] President Romeo Lucas Garcia said today that the 7 March elections will be held in a climate of absolute freedom. He affirmed that his government will do everything within its power to prevent the terrorists from marring the electoral process.

However, he did admit that in the zones where terrorism exists, particularly in the western highlands, abstentions could be high although the security forces will do everything possible to prevent the activities of subversive groups. President Lucas Garcia said that he did not believe it was necessary to extend official invitations to foreign observers because the foreign correspondents will be the best observers we can have; therefore, we are going to give them all the facilities so that they can do their job.

This was President Lucas Garcia's reply to political parties who have denounced the possibility of an electoral fraud.

Meanwhile, Carlos Toledo Vielman, public relations secretary of the presidency, told our reporter: [Begin recording] [Toledo] Unofficially, I have been told that 81 foreign correspondents have already arrived. I do not know if this is true. We might know the exact number this afternoon when they present their credentials.

[Question] From where have they come?

[Answer] Most are from the United States and Europe. There are some from Asia.

[Question] What about the Christian Democratic Party leader asking the international press, the correspondents and observers to exert pressure on the government to guarantee that elections will be free?

[Answer] I think this is just mere political propaganda. Besides, the government of President Lucas Garcia does not accept any pressure, from wherever it may come, because this is a responsible and serious government that knows its obligations and responsibilities. The government has definitely decided that no official observers from any international organizations will be invited, because we are in no condition to pay their expenses. Instead, Guatemala is going to open its doors, so that whosoever wants to come may feel free to do so, no matter what organization, group or news medium they represent. There will be no restrictions. Our government is particularly pleased by the fact that so many correspondents are coming to Guatemala. They will be the best observers of the electoral process. They will report on the electoral process to the world. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

PARTY LEADERS VIEW U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S VISITS

PA251956 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Feb 82 pp 1, 12

[Article by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro B. and Jose Davila Membreno]

[Text] In exclusives to LA PRENSA, four political leaders of democratic parties have given their opinions on two important incidents; the suspension of the Socialist International meeting in Caracas, and the arrival of three U.S. congressional delegations in Nicaragua.

The leaders that we interviewed were Alfonso Robelo, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) of Social Democratic leanings and president of the Democratic Coordinating Board; Adan Fletes Valle, president of the Social Christian Party (PSC) of Nicaragua; Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, political secretary of the Democratic Conservative Party of conservative progressist leanings; and Rodrigo Solorzano, leader of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) of Nicaragua. Of the four leaders, only Robelo and Solorzano gave their opinion on the case of the Socialist International, because they are members of Social Democratic parties.

According to reliable information, the MDN has applied for membership in the Socialist International, but a decision on this is still pending.

"The Socialist International will call for a meeting behind closed doors (a family meeting) to reconsider its position regarding Nicaragua," MDN President Robelo said this morning. Asked about the controversial meeting of the Socialist International in Caracas suspended because of differences within the organization, Robelo said that the FSLN has no official status in that group and that its sole participation has been as a guest at the most recent meetings.

"Therefore," he added, "the Socialist International must take steps now to solve an internal division caused not be one of its members, but by an external guest, the FSLN. It is not logical for a guest to cause this problem," he stressed.

Robelo also made the following observation: "It is very significant that the two parties -- Democratic Action of Venezuela and the National Liberation Party of Costa Rica -- opposing the FSLN presence in the Socialist International meeting are the largest and most influential Social Democratic parties in Latin America."

"In other words," he added, "these two parties have been the closest to the Nicaraguan reality, the ones that have been in power for the longest period of time and have received the greatest popular support in Latin America. This must make Willy Brandt ponder the situation. He is the other protagonist in the confrontation and is very far from Nicaragua," he added.

Regarding the visit of three delegations of U.S. congressmen to Nicaragua, Robelo said: "It seems to me that these people came to Nicaragua basically to find out about the situation in El Salvador." He added: "Rather than checking on U.S.-Nicaraguan relations, they came to take a look at the complex Salvadoran problem in Central America."

"The Senate is asking for a large sum to help El Salvador, and the congressmen are investigating the feasibility of this economic project," Robelo noted.

In referring to Congressman Clarence Long, Robelo said: Long's attitude is a little isolationist. He seems to be more concerned over the internal problems of the United States than over putting out any amount of money for any country. The only question he asks is: How much is that in dollars? And his international policy is always subordinate to his domestic policy.

For his part, PSC President Fletes Valle said that he deplored that the "U.S. congressional delegations which visited the country recently only came here to look for judgments to justify, understand or criticize Reagan's policy instead of seeking ways of cooperation that boost democracy and respect for the people's self-determination, human rights and pluralism." They came here for matters of interest to them, not us, he added, stressing that this became evident in Long's visit.

He also said that the situation of the Latin American countries is a result of U.S. foreign policy (in the economic as well as in the political and social spheres). Therefore, the United States has a greater responsibility in helping, respecting democracy and promoting it. "It is to be blamed for the economic exploitation to which our people have been subjected," the PSC president emphasized.

Fletes said that the clear explanation that we made to the visitors about our interpretation of the Salvadoran political process and our recognition that this process is not detached from the Nicaraguan process or any other process in the region was very positive. He concluded by stating that it was also very positive to have made it clear that we feel the best thing for the United States as well as for Nicaragua is good relations based on mutual understanding.

We asked PCD Political Secretary Calero Portocarrero about his opinion on the recent visit of the three congressional delegations.

He said: In the first place, one must understand how U.S. policy works. On the one hand you have the Executive Branch (the branch that drafts U.S. domestic and foreign policy) and on the other, the Congress." Therefore, it is understandable that while there have been few changes in Congress, the Executive Branch has suffered a total change in comparison with the policy of the Carter administration, he added.

Regarding the specific delegations which visited Nicaragua, Calero Portocarrero said that they did not represent the Executive Branch or the U.S. Congress as such, but senators and representatives of the U.S. parties. Regarding his opinion on the goals of these delegations he said: "It seems to me that they were on a factfinding mission to allow them to adopt their own positions in the U.S. Congress concerning the policy outlined by the Executive Branch."

In the case of Senators Pell and Leahy, Calero Portocarrero said, it was evident that they wanted to gather the opinion of the various trends existing in Nicaragua in regard to the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran situations. "They didn't even ask our opinion on what the Nicaraguan relations with the United States should be like. However, they did express a desire that the possibilities for an understanding be explored," he noted.

Moreover, Calero Portocarrero continued, Congressman Long seemed to be only interested in the United States, its security and its advantage, turning his back on the difficulties and problems that we have in Central America. I even noted, the PCD leader said, that the only thing the United States is interested in is the United States and that the Middle East and Europe have much greater importance than Central America.

The PCD political secretary was asked if any benefits for the country had resulted from these visits and he said: "In the case of Senators Pell and Leahy, the exchange of views made some sense because they are open-minded persons who are willing to listen. However, in the case of Long, it would have been better for him to have stayed in Maryland instead of wasting his and our time visiting our country."

For his part, PSD President Solorzano discussed the Socialist International's internal crisis as follows: The crisis in the Socialist International shows that the Social Democrtic or "center-left" party image that the FSLN has been trying to sell to the international community no longer deceives anybody, particularly the Latin Americans. The Latin American countries are demanding that Social Democratic parties act as such and respect freedom of the press, promote free elections and separate the state, the party and the army.

Some European Social Democratic leaders like Willy Brandt, either because they are too far away or because of a leftist romanticism, are unwilling to accept the reality that the FSLN is neither Social Democratic nor acting as such. Therefore, we have a crisis within the Socialist International. It is a crisis that has not been solved and which resulted in the suspension of the Caracas meeting.

In referring to the visit of three congressional delegations to Nicaragua, Solorzano said: One must see that these congressmen are Democrats and liberal and do not support anti-Marxist theories. They are people who are opposed to Reagan's foreign policy and are giving him a hard time. They do not support Haig's stands and are skeptical about any argument or criticism that the Nicaraguan opposition might have of the FSLN, particularly when the arguments on the problem look like those used by Haig.

However, since they are Democrats and support democratic forces, we, the democratic forces, must use other terms and approaches.

Regarding his impression of Democratic Congressman Long, Solorzano said he believes politicians in the area think the only answer to the serious crisis is money. Long was shocked when he added up the figures that the politicians of the area presented to him to cover various needs. The figure amounts to $20 million.

Long said: "They are looking at us as if we were a bank. In the first place, we do not have that amount to help Central America, and second, even if we had it... who would guarantee that we would be successful in the future? After all... we have always been wrong in the past." Solorzano concluded by stating that Long was very pessimistic and skeptical about the talks that they held with the leaders of democratic political parties.

CORDOVA RIVAS IN CUBA AT INVITATION OF CASTRO

PA260003 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, arrived this morning in Cuba on invitation from Cuban President Fidel Castro. During his stay in Cuba, the Nicaraguan Government leader will visit places of economic and historic interest.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman returned from Cuba this morning. D'Escoto had gone to Cuba on 23 February. According to reports, he was accompanied by other important Foreign Ministry officials to sign multiple cooperation agreements with the Cuban Government.

U.S., NATO NAVAL MANEUVERS IN CARIBBEAN NOTED

PA250400 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Reaffirming its expansionist and aggressive policy, the U.S. Government has begun the naval operations that it is conducting with NATO in the Caribbean seas and off the Mexican coasts. According to statements issued by the Pentagon, these maneuvers confirm the U.S. Government's strategy and efforts to commit its European allies to support any U.S. aggression against the Central American area.

The Pentagon has described these operations as the first important NATO naval operation in the Straits of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. The NATO participation in the naval operation takes place amid a campaign against Nicaragua initiated by the U.S. Government through the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA.

PDRY LEADER TALKS TO SOLIDARITY EVENT IN MANAGUA

PA250330 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] The period during which imperialism played with the destiny of the poor and oppressed peoples, turning them over to corrupt governments, has ended, according to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, chairman of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], who spoke during an event last night at the Sandinist Workers Federation that expressed the solidarity between the Yemeni and Nicaraguan revolutions. The PDRY leader stressed the sovereignty of actions by the peoples and governments of Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada. He said: If Cuba could say no to imperialism in 1959, Nicaragua and Grenada can say it today. In this regard, he harshly condemned the imperialist policy of domination over the underdeveloped countries, particularly in terms of political aspects and the economic exploitation of the Latin American countries' resources. Here is a part of the beautiful and solidaristic speech that the PDRY leader delivered to the Nicaraguan people and government officials present at the event:

[Begin recording of translator] Although we are far from you geographically, we are very near your hearts, because we have fought in the same trenches against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism and their agents; because we come from the same political base; because we fight for a just cause; because we fight for freedom, independence and peace for our people. That is why our people, party and government support the struggle of this heroic people against the threats and provocations of imperialism and reactionaries. [applause]

In recent times, U.S. imperialism has even threatened to use force and has publicly and barefacedly stated its intentions of aggression against Cuba, Nicaragua and the Arab peoples in the Middle East, as well as against many other peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America. With this, imperialism is not expressing its (?strength and power); rather, it is revealing the desperation and the degree of destruction and disillusion it has reached as a result of the defeat it has suffered, due to the loss of numerous spheres of influence on many continents. We tell imperialism that its terrorist aggressions; its financing and training of mercenaries to plot against Nicaragua, Cuba, the PDRY, Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, and Syria; and the support it provides to the reactionaries, Zionism and fascism in El Salvador, Chile, Puerto Rico, occupied Palestine, Namibia and South Africa will not prevent the defeat of neocolonialism and of the dictatorial, fascist, discriminating and Zionist regimes by the peoples who are struggling, because history is on our side and no one can stop it. Imperialism is on the path of its sure extinction and the people are advancing.

You can be sure that you are not alone and that we are not the only ones who support you. All of the forces of peace and good in the world are on your side, because you are right, because you fight for a just cause and noble objectives. [applause] We are sure that if you maintain the revolutionary traditions of the Nicaraguan people and their leaders and martyrs, and with the assistance of your brothers on this continent, you will be able to overcome all of the difficulties that your enemies place before you. [end recording]

BISHOPS PROTEST SITUATION ON ATLANTIC COAST

PA201723 Managua Radio Corporation in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Document on the Atlantic coast situation issued by the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference in Granada on 18 February; read by Reverend Father Ismael [name indistinct -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [words indistinct], to our loyal and faithful people, to the Nicaraguan family of Miskitos, Sumos and Ladinos, to our collaborators, priests, deacons, clergy, nuns and representatives of the word of God, to government officials and all men of good will:

Our greeting as pastors and brothers in the church of Christ which [word indistinct] in our nation and in the world. [words indistinct] the events which occurred along the Coco River border with Honduras in Zelaya Department, Nicaragua, since December 1981, which have climaxed on one hand with the massive transfer of Miskito populations to the interior of the country and on the other hand with the flight of a considerable number of the people of this region to Honduras has had painful effects, which affects all of us -- Miskitos, Sumos and Ladinos of this region.

It is well known that during the past few months, the army has lost many soldiers and militiamen in this border region. Many of their political opponents and some innocent bystanders have also been killed.

As a result of these events, dozens of people have been arrested and the army has evacuated almost all the villages along the Coco River. Although from a military point of view it is possible to explain the massive evacuation of these peoples, we must, however, regret, from the human and Christian point of view. the displacement of Indian groups who have lived in this region from time immemorial.

[We regret] the evacuation both to camps established by the government in the interior of the republic and to Honduras where many have fled, driven perhaps by the fear of the sometimes drastic manner in which the others were transferred to the camps. As pastors of all our people, we deeply feel the sorrow caused by the uprooting of all these brothers and we want to express our sorrow and concern to them as well as our fraternal love and our pastoral [word indistinct].

Our reflections on these events: We admit the right of government officials to take the necessary steps to guarantee the defense and integrity of the national territory. We also recognize the autonomy of the state and its right to decree emergency military measures in all or part of the country to make national defense effective. However, we want to remind everyone that there are inalienable rights which under no circumstance can be violated and we assert with painful certainty that in some cases the human rights of individual families and even whole communities have been seriously violated.

The transfer in military operations, without previous warning and without dialogue to create an awareness; the forced marches of several days without consideration for the weak, the old, the women and children; the abuses and the accusations of counterrevolutionary collaboration against these people; the destruction of housing, goods and domestic animals, even the death of persons under circumstances which should be pondered, reminds us of the drama experienced by other sister countries.

Only the fact that [words indistinct] vigorously protest this attitude from those who having power and force, should be the first to guarantee the observance of these human rights and to ask the respective authorities to apply disciplinary measures to prevent the repetition of such actions in the future.

While recalling that all Nicaraguans have a right and a historical duty to preserve the integrity of our national territory, we must also recall that, once the safety of our national territory is assured, it is a right and a duty to maintain the legitimate protection of the national heritage and wealth which are traditional in the Indian communities of the Atlantic coast and in which we find and admit with pride, not only the basis of our race, but also the identity of our ancient pre-Hispanic nationalities.

Final observations: After having disclosed these facts which reveal disrespect for the dignity of human beings and violate their rights, we pastors, in open solidarity with the Miskitos, Sumos and Ladinos of our Atlantic coast, ask for a thorough investigation. We ask that adequate steps be taken to promote peace by means of the use of justice in the region. We urge all our brother Miskitos, Sumos and Ladinos to courageously maintain your Christian faith and the hope [words indistinct] have received the Gospel for so many years.

As Catholic bishops, we shall do everything possible so that the Gospel will not be suspended and to this end we shall ensure a periodic visit by your priests, deacons and [words indistinct]. Aware that our brothers on the Atlantic coast suffer, this Episcopal Conference asks the Catholic faithful for their generous contribution in the collection to be made in all the churches of the country and in all the meetings to be held on Sunday 7 March.

In decreeing this day of prayer and cooperation on behalf of our brothers on the Atlantic coast, we are aware that in making this protest, we do not ignore the government's efforts to care for the refugees in this region. Our institution [words indistinct] each Nicaraguan must cooperate are the desires of the Episcopal Conference.

We ask government and unofficial organizations to help our brothers in the Atlantic coast. We ask the government to grant us facilities to render this service directly to the affected.

Finally, in view of the impossibility of directly helping those who for the same reasons are now in Honduras, we appeal to the charity of our brothers of the Honduran Episcopal Conference as well as to the fraternal authorities and social institutions.

Given the maternal protection of the Immaculate Mary to [words indistinct], we publish this message in Granada on 18 February 1982.

Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference signed by Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, Managua archbishop and president of the Episcopal Conference; Monsignor (Pablo Antonio Vega), bishop of Juigalpa, vice president; Monsignor (Leovigildo Lopez Victoria), bishop of Granada, secretary; Monsignor [name indistinct], bishop of Matagalpa, [name indistinct] apostolic vicar of Bluefields, Monsignor (Ruben Lopez Ardon), bishop of Esteli and Monsignor [name indistinct] auxiliary bishop of Managua.

Junta Response

PA232151 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1235 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Communique issued by the General Secretariat of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction on 22 February 1982 -- read by Manuel Espinoza Henriquez, government press and information director -- live or recorded]

[Text] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction addresses the people of Nicaragua and the international community to express its profound displeasure and concern over the publication of a communique signed by the Nicaragua Episcopal Conference and dated 17 February 1982. The Episcopal Conference issued this communique, which refers in a most untrue and distorted manner to the situation on our Atlantic coast, without making use of the official channels of communication established between the bishops and the government junta by mutual agreement.

This action runs contrary to the stable, cordial and normal relationship that should exist between the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and the revolutionary state. The situation is aggravated by the fact that on two recent occasions, 16 and 18 February, the government junta invited the bishops to visit the settlements in which the Miskito communities have been relocated. These invitations were not accepted.

The Episcopal Conference document, which has obvious political overtones rather than the characteristics of a pastoral message, was published on an occasion calculated to undermine the climate of national unity that the revolutionary government has been consolidating through various actions, including the discussion of a political parties law within the State Council, the release of the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] leaders and the announcement of an incentives plan for national producers.

It is also obvious that this document contains elements of the same aggressive political policy that the U.S. Government has been stressing against our revolution. It was also released at a time when imperialism has issued the most grave threats against our fatherland, including the plans for aggression and blockades that are being discussed at the highest U.S. Government levels.

The Episcopal Conference document undermines factors that are crucial to the unity of the Nicaraguan people and of the nation; the defense of our frontiers and the preservation of our sovereignty and national integrity, which is even threatened with territorial division. These are tasks that have been bravely carried out by heroic members of the armed forces and the people's militias, many of whom have fallen in this sacred war, victims of the criminal actions by armed gangs of former Somozist guardsmen.

The murderers of our people, the slaughterers of yesterday and today, can in no way be described as political adversaries of our humble soldiers, but rather as enemies of all of our people.

We wish to call attention to the fact that the bulletin issued by the U.S. Embassy in Managua, dated 17 February, contains the same report disseminated by 15 September, the Somozist counterrevolutionaries' radio station, which operates in Honduran territory.

This report points to atrocities committed by government troops against a Nicaraguan tribe and charges that the Nicaraguan Government has adopted a policy of repression against the Miskitos.

It is reported that entire villages have fled to Honduras and there are increasing reports about Indians killed or imprisoned by the Nicaraguan Army.

These same arguments, in more restrained language, are now being used in the Episcopal Conference document, though incomprehensibly. Thus, the bishops mention that many have fled to Honduras, perhaps spurred by fear or by sometimes drastic measures; however, they forget to say that many of those who went to Honduras are being held in military camps and even participated in armed invasions of San Carlos, Rio Coco, Esquipulas, (Remus), (Raiti), (Burgoscarma) and other towns, which cost the lives of over 800 Nicaraguan brothers, civilians and well as military personnel.

Of course, not all of those who crossed over into Honduras are counterrevolutionaries. However, it must also be noted that armed groups of those criminals forced entire communities to leave the country by way of the Coco River, to the extent that once the process of evacuation had begun over 200 Miskitos, who had been taken to Honduras by force, returned to Nicaragua to participate peacefully and with their full assent in the orderly transfer of the communities to the interior.

The bishops say that they regret that the government transferred the Coco River communities to the country's interior, but they do not mention or condemn the doctrine of terror that had been created in that region by the terrorist activities undertaken by the counterrevolutionary gangs of former Somozist guardsmen, nor do they mention that the communities were enduring hunger and illness because the counterrevolutionaries allowed neither food or medicine to be shipped on the river, which is their only means of transport and communication.

The bishops speak in their communique of serious human rights violations, a grave charge that we must vigorously deny. Everyone knows, and this has been confirmed by several international human rights committees, that abuse, humiliation and methodical torture have been definitely eradicated in Nicaragua since the triumph of the revolution and that, when there have been isolated cases of abuse, those responsible have been severely punished by our civilian and military courts.

The bishops know perfectly well that is not possible to reach the evacuated communities by road and that it was not possible to use the river because of the counterrevolutionaries' constant ambushes. Therefore, the only way to be evacuated was to walk. However, the revolutionary government guaranteed the evacuation of all children and the sick by helicopter, contrary to statements contained in the bishops' communique.

Despite the hardships and difficult circumstances, medical attention and sufficient food during the marches was guaranteed, with the result that not a single casualty was suffered. Moreover, it is obvious that it would not have been possible to evacuate several thousand people without their consent. This consent was obtained by means of a persuasive consciousness-raising effort.

It is not true that there have been abuses against entire sectors of the population. On the contrary, the evacuation was characterized by the solicitous care that the government guaranteed to the evacuated population, within the limitations imposed by the environment and the scarcity of resources.

The bishops say not a single word about the duly-confirmed criminal participation of Moravian pastors and Catholic deacons in propaganda, logistics support and armed counterrevolutionary activities. Neither do they mention the terrorist counterrevolutionary activities being carried out, with foreign support, by the enemies of our people, who have sanctuary in Honduran territory. It was precisely those activities that forced the revolutionary government to undertake the evacuation measures.

The government junta wishes to state that, on 19 February, it summoned Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montesemolo to outline these opinions and concerns for him and to inform him that the government junta urgently needs to have a Vatican mission come to Nicaragua. The revolutionary government will discuss with this mission its future overall relations with the ecclesiastical hierarchy.

Finally, the government junta reiterates its profound respect for the religious beliefs of the Nicaraguan people and its pledge to guarantee absolute freedom of worship in the country. These principles are contained in the basic statute and the statute of rights and guarantees of Nicaraguans, as well as in the FSLN declaration on religion issued in October 1980.

[Signed] General Secretariat of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, Government Palace, 22 February 1982, in the year of unity in the face of aggression.

OPPOSITION CRITICIZES NEW POLITICAL PARTY BILL

PA251350 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] believes that the law on political parties drafted by a special commission is not good for pluralism. CDN leaders interviewed by Radio Corporacion reporters expressed their deep disillusionment with the law on political parties that has been discussed and drafted by a special State Council commission. They believe that neither the FSLN nor the government is fulfilling the government plans they espoused upon taking over on 19 July 1979.

CDN member Wilfredo Montalvan told Radio Corporacion that this bill, presented by a special State Council commission, is a serious challenge for political parties locally and at the continental level, since the pluralism originally espoused by the Sandinist government is not being included. Wildredo Montalvan said that according to the bill, responsibility for regulating all the activities of political parties lies with the FSLN and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. Articles 10 and 11 provide for the creation of the National Council of political parties. This council will be controlled by the government junta and since the FSLN controls all state organs, it will logically enjoy an absolute power over democratic political parties, he said.

The Social Democratic leader added that the bill presented by the State Council is unilateral and sectarian, especially with respect to Article 24, which provides for the suspension or cancellation of parties contingent upon direct instructions from the Interior Ministry or the office of the attorney general of the republic, which are both part of the Sandinist state and serve the government.

Montalvan said that this law in fact makes the FSLN a judge in its own case, something like a fight between a donkey that is tethered and a tiger that is free. He then pointed out that the CDN's legal commission continues its in-depth analysis and study of the law on political parties, in order to point out mistakes and offer suggestions.

This legal commission is composed of Nicaraguan Democratic Movement member Dr Walter Balladares, (Julio Ramon Garcia), of the Social Christian Party (PSC), (Sergio Mario Montealegre) of the Constitutionalist Liberal Movement (MLC); (Francisco Savorio) of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and other lawyers such as (Enrique Menezes Pena) and (Oscar Herdocia). The PSD leader affirmed that the democratic political leader will go to the State Council to discuss the bill and express their viewpoints, although there is a political steamroller at work which does not allow the democratic exchange of ideas.

LEADERS HIT NETHERLANDS' SUSPENSION OF AID

FL230330 Bridgetown CANA in English 0010 GMT 23 Feb 82

[By Herman Singh]

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 22 Feb (CANA) -- Suriname has begun official celebrations marking the second anniversary of the military take-over of the country on February 25, 1980 against a backdrop on uncertain relations with its former colonial ruler -- Holland. The Dutch Government has announced that it was indefinitely suspending all future meetings of the mixed commission between the two countries, which decides on the allocation of development aid to Suriname.

Holland said it had decided on the action to show its concern at the political crisis in the country as it relates to democracy. This was a reference to the military's dismissal of the Henk Chin-A-Sen civilian government February 4. Suriname is now ruled by a fourman military council pending formation of a new civilian administration. The commission was scheduled to meet next month to discuss among other things the funding of a major hydro-electric project here.

The Dutch Governments decision will also hamper the planning of a new social and economic programme for the new government, which is expected to be announced by ruling military authority on March 15. Holland has however indicated that current projects for which funding has already been approved, will continue and all commitments for the first quarter of this year will also be honoured.

Army Commander Deysi Bouterse, who heads the ruling military authority, said it was strange that Holland linked its aid with democracy while the authority was in the process of forming a new government. "It is strange that Holland did not raise the question of democracy while the Chin-A-Sen government was in office as there is no change in the situation. It is same as when the Chin-A-Sen government was in office," the army commander said. Lt Colonel Bouterse told newsmen that when Holland decided to discontinue its aid, Suriname would turn to other countries for assistance. There are many countries which will gladly help us he declared without naming any country. He also said that should Holland stop the development aid, the matter would be raised in international fora.

In a statement read on television last night, caretaker Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp said Holland's action was a violation of the treaty governing aid between the two countries and interference in the internal affairs of Suriname. Suriname is not interfering in the affairs of Holland and we expect that Holland will do the same towards Suriname, he said. He contended that this interference smacks of a new form of colonialism Holland was attempting to impose on Suriname. It took Holland more than 100 years to evolve a system of democracy but (Holland) expects us to do in 24 months, he declared.

The treaty does not spell out whether the aid was linked to a system of government in the country, but experts from Holland say the Dutch Government could successfully argue that when the treaty was signed, it was done with a popularly elected government -- a situation which no longer exist in the country.

Interference Charge

FL250235 Bridgetown CANA in English 0010 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 24 Feb (CANA) -- Suriname's ruling military authority today accused the government in Holland of trying to interfere in the internal affairs of this former Dutch colony.

In a note handed to the Dutch Embassy here, the authority said the former colonial power had acted without cause for concern when it asked last week-end for postponement of next month's meeting of a mixed commission which decides on continuing Dutch aid to Paramaribo. The Dutch Government wants the meeting put off until a civilian administration is formed in Suriname.

Suriname is now being ruled by the authority under Army Commander Deysi Bouterse. The military-backed government of President Henk Chen-A-Sen relinquished power last February 4, after it was asked to resign. The Dutch Government said it wanted to see a new plan of policy outlined in the former Dutch colony before the meeting. Since Bouterse took over, he appointed a new acting president, Fred Ramdat Misir, who will remain in place until another government is announced on March 15. Holland in support of her request, is claiming that military rule here could adversely affect the democratic process in the country.

The Suriname authority said a postponement would be best under the circumstances, but said "it was astonished at the Dutch reaction. The Dutch Government can, on the basis of friendly relations, obtain all information relating to the democratic process in Suriname through diplomatic channels", it said. The military, the note added, was "always prepared to provide the Dutch Government with information from the proper channels."

PAPER CHARGES ARMY HOLDING BACK INFORMATION

FL232205 Bridgetown CANA in English 1819 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 23 Feb (CANA) -- A Surinamese newspaper, DE WARE TIJD, has accused the ruling fourman military authority here led by Army Commander Deysi Bouterse of withholding information about the factors leading up to the removal of the Henk Chen A Sen government nearly three weeks ago.

The paper referred to a statement made by the military five days after the government resigned on February 4 as evasive and said that withholding vital information from the people would not result in their gaining confidence in the new administration. Bouterse, who has emerged as the army strongman since the February 25, 1980 military coup here, said internal differences which were hindering the smooth running of the government had caused the dismissal of the civilian administration.

The newspaper charged that Bouterse had talked about a crisis in the country but was very vague, a quality which it said was not conducive to the achievement of stability. "Almost everyone agrees that democracy was not exercised in the correct manner prior to February 25, 1980. But it is also an unhealthy matter to withhold vital information on such a radical step as the removal of a government and to expect confidence in the nation at the same time," said DE WARE TIJD. "This lack of openness is being interpreted as a step backwards. Without any form of dialogue, the nation has to assume that the authorities are doing the right thing," it asserted.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT FORMS MULTINATIONAL OIL FIRM

PY231628 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Feb 82 p 16

[Excerpt] PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]; Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX); and Venezuelan Petroleum (PVSA) decided yesterday to create an international company that will go by the name of PETROLATIN. This new company will carry out oil prospecting activities in the Americas. This decision was taken during the 2-day Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) meeting that closed yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel. PETROLATIN will be headquatered in Jamaica and will initially operate in Ecuador and Guatemala, which have shown interest in the company. This multinational company is in keeping with energy cooperation principles upheld by OLADE.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISES REAGAN PROPOSAL

PA251635 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1608 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, 25 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Dominican foreign minister said today that the development plan for the Caribbean Basin announced yesterday by President Ronald Reagan is the most important effort at international cooperation since the days of the Alliance for Progress 20 years ago. According to Manuel Tavares Espaillat, the country will benefit most in its sugar sales in the U.S. market, following the elimination of the high tariffs on the area's export products proposed yesterday by Reagan. The foreign minister told newsmen that the Dominican Republic has become the most reliable supplier of sugar to the United States and he demanded a preferential treatment in that market.

HAITI

OPPOSING GROUPS CLASH IN POWER DISPUTE

FL252200 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2135 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] An undetermined number of civilians have been killed or wounded during a shootout between the personal guard of Haitian Dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier and the Tonton Macoutes Paramilitary Corps. Reports from the Haitian capital say that the new armed clash between groups fighting for power in that country caused many victims who were at a carnival party. The clashes between Haitian Government forces demonstrate the struggles existing within the Duvalier dictatorship. The prevailing political and social situation in Haiti is continuously deteriorating, a crisis which is used by the United States to increase its military presence in this country. The fact that Washington has sent new advisers to Dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier demonstrates that the Haitian Regime has rejected the Tonton Macoutes Paramilitary Corps.

URUGUAY

U.S. GENERAL VESSEY ARRIVES IN MONTEVIDEO

PY241640 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Excerpt] U.S. Deputy Chief of Staff Gen John Vessey arrived this morning in Montevideo in response to an invitation extended by the Uruguayan Army Command. During his stay, Gen John Vessey will hold meetings with several government officials. He will also visit Punta del Este and Salto.